

Nicolson THE Calvert

HISTORIES

OF

Lady FRANCES S—,

AND

Lady CAROLINE S—.

Written by the Miss MINIFIES,
Of Fairwater, in Somersetshire.

VOL. III.

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HISTORIES

OF

Lady Frances

Lady Catherine



VOL II

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T H E
H I S T O R I E S

O F

Lady FRANCES and Lady
CAROLINE S—.

Dear child,



HAVING an agueish disorder, and being advised to a change of air, the duke has offered me a small house of his at R—,

VOL. III.

B

where

Chris: Calverts

2 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

where I shall soon be, and hope to meet you there. Entreat my father to part with you, as it will afford me great consolation; let me know by this messenger (who is a tenant of the Duke's, and has business your way) if my request is granted; and if it is, I desire you will set out in a few days, to get my room in order.—Mrs. Rogers, a friend of mine, will be at the house to receive you. I was at Mr. Nevison's when it was brought her; she read it to him. Yes my dear, said he, you shall go, you already give up too much of your time to me; my good girl knows she is a cordial to my age, but go now and comfort your mother.

and Lady Caroline S——. 3

ther. — At that instant my conscience, which I thought dying, again revived, but I stifled it, remembering that I was too far embarked in my project, to think of pursuing a right course. Reason having deserted the steerage of my bosom, and hurried away by the violence of my passions, I suffered them to drive me with wild fury, over dreadful rocks and quick sands; which I did not then perceive, as amusing myself with the idle chimeras of my own brain, which were various, gay, and delusive. — I desired permission to attend Miss Dalton to R——, which was granted with apparent pleasure; and the few days that

4 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
intervened between the time fixed
for our leaving N——, I employed in visiting Heartly Abbey.
—Mrs. Rogers was a woman proper to be with Miss Dalton, very artful, had been well educated, could easily gain the good opinion of those on whom she had any designs. I directly sent to the house I had hired at R——, where she was to personate a domestic of the Duke's.—My thoughts were now so full of the plan I had laid down, which wore the face of success, that when I saw Miss Dalton stepping into the chaise, I already looked on her as my own.—Mr. Nevison, at parting with her, recommended her
to

and Lady Caroline S——. 5

to my care, in a manner that shewed the confidence he had in me. How was he then, how has he always been deceived in my appearance? She was so much affected at his paternal tenderness, that a melancholy took possession of her features; and my self-accusations made me share it with her, which the variety of objects as we drove on, in some measure, dissipated.—When our conversation took a more lively air, then I attempted to give it a still gayer turn; and try'd to introduce my favourite subject; but it was repelled in a manner that discovered her resentment; and the danger I was in of losing her esteem. So

6 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

still forced to dissemble, I put on my former appearance, or she with a touch, like that of Ithuriel's spear, would have detected me.—At our arrival here we were welcomed by Mrs. Rogers, who told Miss Dalton her mother would be with her in a few days. In that time I intended to discover to her my quality, the impossibility of my marrying her (which had made me act as I had done) to tell her that I would study her happiness; and that if my fortune and entire affection could bestow it on her, they were both at her disposal. This considered, I hoped would induce her to forgive the deception I had used, and listen to

and Lady Caroline S——. 7

to those sophistical arguments which I had made myself master of, till her virtue should be lull'd asleep by them.—I took a lodging near hers, which was at a small distance from the town, and seeing my scheme now at its crisis, I ventured to laugh at those sacred rites which I had before seemed to venerate, called them priestcraft, talked of her sparkling with jewels in a side-box; and being distinguished for her beauty wherever she appeared. When she thus interrupted me——Certainly you are not Mr. Beaumont! the Mr. Beaumont that honoured me with his regard, was good and generous. Leave, leave me, sir, I will

B 4

not

8 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

not be insulted ; if you entertain those opinions, leave me, and know that I detest the one, and despise the other.—This she said with vehemence ; and bursting into tears, was going from me, when catching her hand, and preventing her, —My dear charming girl, charming even in your anger, hear, said I, my defence, and suffer not my folly to ruin me in your esteem. 'Tis true, the subjects I have touched on are notions unfit for your ear ; I from my soul abhor them, and only wanted to hear you expatiate against them with your delightful eloquence. Now, sir, she replied, you flatter me, and seemed so alarmed and doubtful

and Lady Caroline S——. 9

ful the whole day after, that I plainly perceived the vigilance of her heavenly guard was unwearyed.—Uncertain how to act, I was debating with myself, and almost determined to marry her, and run the risque of my father's displeasure ; when a servant from Lord Edgmoore's came to acquaint me with the earl's extream danger. The affection I have for him upbraided me with my ingratitude to the best of parents; and after telling Miss Dalton that an affair of consequence called me from her, I flew to my father, but did not merit the reception I met, or the pleasure I felt at hearing his physicians pronounce him

10 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
out of danger.—You know what
followed; the pain I now suffer
overballances all the satisfactions I
ever received; one detestable
scheme has drawn on others, all
bent to ruin the most perfect inno-
cence.—What a contradiction
are we to ourselves? how could
I, who was really in love with
virtue, once think of turning that
very virtue into vice? Still shudder-
ing at the precipice I have escaped,
I am now too fatally, I fear, con-
vinced, she is more than a name.
——Doctor M—— has just been
with me, Miss Dalton's fever is
now on her spirits; and what as-
surances can she believe from me,
to raise them from their depres-
sure?

and Lady Caroline S——. 11

sure? from me, whose villainy has thrown her into this despondency! I will entreat a mind like her own to guarantee for me.—Expose my crime to my dearest sister, convince her of my repentance, and let your petition be joined to miss Hamilton's, to prevail on her pardon to me, and think on some means to alleviate the distresses of this admirable girl.—I am yet a stranger to the means of her discovering me; and must still remain so, till she herself can let me know from what quarter she gathered her intelligence. I cannot think it to be from Rogers; she is too bad a woman: besides, Miss Dalton has expressed
such

12 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

such an abhorrence at seeing her, that she certainly is not the person.—As soon as I knew it, I removed Rogers, and placed good people about the dear injured creature, who are told she is a distant relation of the earl's.—Once more I desire my dear Hamilton will lay the whole affair before my sister, and his own; and tho' I am sensible that the poor criminal will appear to them in a very bad light; yet what may I not expect from their lenient dispositions?—Adieu my friend, pity, and pardon your Ormsby.—

You would have been surprized at the many alterations in Lady
Lucy's

Lucy's countenance ; as my brother read to us the packet ; now crimson, now pale alternately. Where lord Ormsby first mentioned his going down to Heartly Abbey, she trembled with expectation ; and where he repeated part of their conversation, she coloured with resentment ; where her brother expressed his lively contrition, her eyes sparkled with pleasure ; but where he pursued his schemes, she turned pale with terror ; some tears fell, at the old man's description of Miss Dalton ; after which they flow'd without restraint, till she had nothing more to expect ; but never once the whole time interrupted him.—I think,

14 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
think, said she, as soon as it was
concluded, my brother is so sensible
of his crime, and so justly accuses
himself, that he leaves but
little room for further accusation.
Thank God his fault is not irreparable;
had it been so, I would never more
have consented to see him.—What think
you, my dear Juliet? what think you
Sir William? shall we not endeavour to
removethis anxiety from his mind?
——My brother kissed her hand,
and thanked her for lord Ormsby;
I was quite of her opinion, so
by her request, he went into my
closet, and wrote to his lordship,
inviting him to return, with assurances
of all the assistance in our
power,

and Lady Caroline S——. 15

power, to remedy his present uneasiness.—“ It was really a charming letter, at those parts of it where he threw in his opinion, or advice,

“ With touch so fine, so tender
“ of his friend,
“ He handles every fault that he
“ would mend,
“ That the pleas'd patient, with a
“ smile, endures
“ The playful hand that tickles
“ whilst it cures.”

Having finished the letter, he dispatched it by the servant, whom he had detained in town for that purpose. Her ladyship intends keeping

16 *The History of Lady Frances*

keeping the whole transaction from the earl, as we are in great hopes it is only a passing storm, that will blow over without any other ill consequences.—After all, my dear, what a dreadful thing it is, when any of our sex, who really love virtue, are so unhappy as to fall into the hands of men, who glory in bring it on a level with vice; of which principles is the hateful Lord Edgmoore, especially in the case of Miss Dalton? Like the villain spider, he had artfully spun his web of so fine a texture, as to make it imperceptible. Hid in the close recesses of his wicked machinery, with malicious pleasure, he saw the innocent unsuspecting

and Lady Caroline S——. 17

pecting fly enjoying the sweets of content, and the liberty of roving from flower to flower, and sucking the sweets of education; till at last allured by a sun-beam, she is entangled in the net of vice.—The spider now shews itself, creeping out by slow degrees, eyeing its prey; who, at his approach, sends out a feeble cry of pity to its destroyer.—Bloated with imagined success, methinks I see him just ready to seize the victim of his revenge, when behold she is miraculously delivered by the force of her own virtue.—Lady Lucy has just shewn me a letter from Lady Frances Worthley, from whose hand do you think she received

18 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
ceived it? Why, Lord Henry's, the
kind, the beneficent, the generous
Lord Henry. His Lordship in-
tends drinking coffee with us.—
Yes, my dear Lady Lucy, I will
follow you, to see, love, and ad-
mire this honour to the nation.

Her Ladyship permits me to re-
assume my pen, whilst she is writ-
ing to Audley Castle. His Lord-
ship intends setting out for Suffex
early to-morrow morning. All I
can say of him, will be only re-
peating what has been already
said.—The Duke and Dutcheſs I
find are ſtill inflexible, which oc-
caſions Lady Frances an infinite deal
of concern. Lord Henry has made
ſeveral

and Lady Caroline S——. 19

several unsuccessful attempts since the first, but now gives over all thoughts of that nature.—He insisted on our making a visit to Audley Castle before I return to Berks; and further, on our then fixing a time for it. Lady Lucy seemed to decline it, on account of leaving the earl; though I saw that was not her only reason. He, being present, declared it should be none, for though he could not accept his lordship's invitation himself, he was determined not to deny us so great a happiness: and Mrs. Johnson, he said, should be his nurse till our return: and then fixed on Thursday fortnight for our going.—You must know that
the

20 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

the earl's great, and indeed almost only foible is, that he is so peremptory, that he will never be contradicted; and though he loves Lady Lucy better than his life, yet was he to command her to leave him alone in the midst of a wild desert, she dares not oppose him.—Lord Henry appeared quite obliged by it, and has promised to meet us some part of the way.—That all before that time may be settled to the satisfaction of poor Lord Ormsby, Miss Dalton, Mr. Nevison, and every other interested party, prays your

Juliet Hamilton.

Miss

Miss Hamilton in continuation.

“ **T**Hough the countenance is
“ often the interpreter of
“ the heart, yet is not this rule
“ without exception ; ours at least
“ do at present but little corre-
“ spond.—What by-stander that
“ had seen us at breakfast this
“ morning, but would have
“ thought us quite happy ? Lord
“ Ormsby returned from R——,
“ just as we were met in the li-
“ brary ; but no sooner was the
“ Earl withdrawn then the scene
“ shifted. — His Lordship ap-
“ proached his sister with an air
“ of great confusion ; a tear fell
“ from the eye of Lady Lucy,
“ she

22 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ she could not speak; he took
“ her hand, O my Lucy, my si-
“ ster, is it possible you can for-
“ give a wretch unworthy the ti-
“ tle of your brother? will Miss
“ Hamilton deign to become the
“ advocate of a criminal?—You
“ need no advocate; you are al-
“ ready pardoned, I replied. What,
“ said Lady Lucy, can I do, to
“ oblige my brother?—O, re-
“ turned he, think on some me-
“ thod to preserve that life, dearer
“ to me than my own; think on
“ some means to relieve the di-
“ stresses of a young creature, the
“ idol of her friends, from whom
“ I have taken her, born to hap-
“ piness, of which I have bereft
“ her;

“ her; having led her to the door
“ of misery. It is only you that
“ can prevent her from entering
“ the inhospitable mansion.—
“ She told him, as he had so true
“ a sense of his fault, she would
“ not widen the wound; but ap-
“ ply all the balsam in her power,
“ consistent with the character of
“ Lord Ormsby’s sister; presum-
“ ing the Lady would be restored
“ to her friends as soon as her
“ health permitted. And being
“ assured this was now his only
“ intention, she said (turning to
“ me) In the mean time, my
“ dear, what think you of visiting
“ the sick?—He was in rap-
“ tures at the very supposition;
“ he

24 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ he blessed the heart that dictat-
“ ed the tongue that uttered a
“ design so generous to the guilty,
“ so compassionate to the injured;
“ and tenderly taking her in his
“ arms, Now, my Lucy, said he,
“ am I to your gentleness that sin-
“ cere convert, which recrimina-
“ tions and upbraidings would ne-
“ ver have made me; for though
“ I was determined to forsake my
“ late detested schemes, through
“ entire veneration for the object
“ of them, yet might I not in time
“ have returned to a path where
“ you would be sorry to see me tread.
“ Thanks to my sister, she has ta-
“ ken the only method that could
“ effectually abstract me from
“ them;

and Lady Caroline S——. 25

“ them ; compleat then your kind
“ intention, and let it be your second
“ task to convince Miss Dalton I
“ am thoroughly disgusted with
“ those libertine principles from
“ which she has suffered. I see
“ Miss Hamilton already consents
“ to accompany you. I said my
“ countenance gave him leave to
“ put those constructions on it
“ that would be most agreeable
“ to himself.—And have I, ladies, he replied, your permission to order the coach? I know
“ you will not postpone a journey
“ which is to convey to one oppressed with grief and sickness,
“ peace, health, and spirits.—
“ Being answered that his time
Vol. III. C “ should

26 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ should be ours, he left us to
“ seek my brother, whose lodgings
“ are near this house ; but return-
“ ed without him, he being de-
“ tained by the arrival of two gen-
“ tlemen from abroad.—Lady
“ Lucy and myself went together
“ to the Earl, and made our apo-
“ logies for leaving him that day
“ alone: he politely answered us,
“ that mine and his daughters
“ company was so truly desirable,
“ he could not hope to engross it
“ all ; so stepping into the coach
“ that was waiting at the door,
“ we drove away at a great rate.
“ —R — is about fifteen miles
“ from town ; for my part, I did
“ not think the way quite so tedi-
“ ous,

and Lady Caroline S——. 27

“ous, as lord Ormsby seemed to
“do. He could talk of nothing
“but the amiableness of the per-
“son we were so soon to see; and
“in giving her those perfections
“which are really her due, he
“fared the worse himself. Lady
“Lucy told him, she never heard
“of a good painter, but felt in
“his breast those passions his pen-
“cil drew; therefore as he knew
“so well how to paint virtue, and
“had given us so beautiful a pic-
“ture of her, was much surpriz-
“ed, that he could retain his bad
“intentions, while it stood before
“him. Indeed, said he, your obser-
“vation is true; yet, on reviewing
“this charming piece, it is the

28 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ same with me, as with one that
“ is but just restored to fight;
“ when the first thing that appears
“ to him is the glorious orb that
“ he has been so long deprived of.
“ At first its lustre is so great, that
“ he cannot fix his eye on it; but
“ at length, by a frequent repeti-
“ tion, he is able to look sted-
“ fastly at it, being strengthened
“ by that very light which at first
“ dazzled him.—Lady Lucy was
“ pleased with his remark; and
“ once more called him her good
“ brother; but tell me, will not
“ Miss Dalton, said she, be too
“ much surprized at so sudden a
“ visit?—Not so much as you
“ imagine, Lucy; for I have al-
“ ready

and Lady Caroline S——. 29

“ ready apprised her of the ho-
“ nour you proposed to do her.
“ —How is that possible, she re-
“ ply’d?—Only he said, by send-
“ ing a sealed note to her as soon
“ as I had your permission to or-
“ der the coach ; which she will
“ receive full an hour before our
“ arrival : a precaution she highly
“ approved ; and so driving out
“ of the great road for about half
“ a mile, we stopped at a pretty
“ looking house.—His Lordship’s
“ impatience getting the better of
“ his complaisance, he rather flew
“ than alighted, leaving us in the
“ coach near two minutes ; at
“ his return, having given us his
“ hand, he ordered the servants

30 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ and equipage to an inn ; and
“ then said, you will excuse, Miss
“ Hamilton, so will my Lucy, this
“ rudeness, which your goodness
“ knows so well how to account
“ for:—Yes, yes, said I, that we
“ can, though not for all your
“ Lordship’s unaccountable ways.
“ —Does Miss Hamilton require
“ my account ? (beginning to re-
“ cover his spirits) Not I, my Lord,
“ I replied ; for I believe yours
“ would be a very sorry one.—
“ but you have not answered my
“ enquiries after Miss Dalton ;—
“ Why, have I not told you, said
“ he ?—I ask your Lordship’s
“ pardon, not since our arrival
“ have I heard you mention her
“ name.—I see, said he, that
“ Miss

and Lady Caroline S——. 31

“ Miss Hamilton has never been
“ in love, or else you must have
“ discovered, without my reveal-
“ ing it, that she is better.—Then,
“ my Lord, returned I, to be of
“ your opinion, it is absolutely
“ necessary to commence a con-
“ jurer, before we can commence
“ a lover.—No, no, Juliet, said
“ Lady Lucy; he only means a
“ diviner of hearts.—True, my
“ dear, your construction is right;
“ but few of your sex want that
“ art.—Let me tell you, brother,
“ she replied, that few as there
“ are, you have met with one of
“ them, or Miss Dalton would
“ not have had us for her visitants
“ to-day.—O my sister, I too well

C 4 “ deserve

3.2 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ deserve this rebuke; and he
“ looked a little more penitent;—
“ No, no (fóndly taking his hand)
“ it was only at that time you de-
“ served it; I meant to blame
“ Mr. Beaumont, not Lord Orms-
“ by; for since you have left his
“ designing plots, all your actions
“ have been those of my dear
“ good brother; if possible, more
“ dear to me than ever.—Thus,
“ with half serious raillery, did
“ we reach a small but neat room.
“ Being seated a few minutes, his
“ Lordship withdrew. In his ab-
“ sence our curiosity did not suffer
“ a little: for my part, I formed
“ fifty ideas of her person; some-
“ times I thought her fair, at
“ others

“ others brown; for will you be-
“ lieve me, I was so taken up
“ with what had passed, that I
“ had quite forgot to ask this im-
“ portant question; at length I
“ determined her to have light
“ hair. Lady Lucy was certain
“ she was tall and thin; her bro-
“ ther, she said, never liked any
“ that were not so: but we had
“ not time to finish her person,
“ as Lord Ormsby then entered.
“ —His sister hinting she should
“ like to speak to one of the ser-
“ vants that attended Miss Dalton,
“ before she saw her, immediately
“ ordered the person, which had
“ sat up with her the preceding
“ night, to be admitted; a decent

34 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ elderly woman.—As soon as
“ she came to us, Lady Lucy en-
“ quired how her cousin had
“ slept? and how her spirits were
“ at present?—You will not be
“ surprized at the appellation of
“ cousin, when you recollect that
“ Lord Ormsby had before given
“ her that title to the servants
“ about her, pretending she was a
“ distant relation to his family;
“ and going on a visit to the Earl’s,
“ when she was prevented by ill-
“ ness. This, with other parti-
“ culars, was entirely credited,
“ and his sister, delighted with his
“ tenderness for Miss Dalton’s re-
“ putation, readily consented to
“ carry on this necessary deceit.—

“ The

and Lady Caroline S——. 35

“ The woman’s reply to her la-
“ dyship’s question, did not af-
“ ford Lord Ormsby any satisfac-
“ tion.—The young lady, she
“ said, had taken but little rest that
“ night, and was so extremely
“ weak, that she had fainted se-
“ veral times in attempting to get
“ from her bed to receive us.—
“ We were all concerned at this
“ account; but his lordship look-
“ ed, upon my word, I can scarce
“ tell how he looked; so affected,
“ so penitent, so eager for further
“ intelligence; he went to the win-
“ dow, he came back; then whis-
“ pered his sister, and desired her
“ not to delay her kind intention.
“ —She saw his anxiety, and im-
“ mediately.

36 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“mediately dispatched the wo-
“man to her new cousin, with
“assurances if she any more at-
“tempted to leave her bed, she
“would not love her; and had
“much rather go back to town
“without seeing her, than that her
“health, so dear to all her friends,
“should be injured by it.—The
“servant being gone with this mes-
“sage, he did not spare himself,
“in speaking of his remorse for
“the detestable schemes that had
“thus reduced her.—We both
“said we expected to have had his
“Lordship’s account confirmed,
“and to have found her much
“recovered. — He impatiently
“curst the servant that had made
“him

and Lady Caroline S——. 37

“ him entertain so pleasing a hope,
“ which he must now be forced
“ to relinquish:—But we com-
“ forced him by saying, as the dis-
“ order was on her spirits, we did
“ not in the least doubt to assure
“ him, before we left her, of an
“ agreeable alteration.—Will not
“ my dear mediatrices compleat
“ their generosity, said he, and try
“ to obtain one interview for
“ me, when she is enough reco-
“ vered to bear me in her pre-
“ sence? May I not then flatter
“ myself with one half hour’s con-
“ versation, my sister and Miss Ha-
“ milton both witnesses of it?—
“ Lady Lucy told him she would
“ promise nothing of this kind,
“ nor

38 *The History of Lady Frances*

“ nor could she think of soliciting
“ for an interview, that might be
“ the means of keeping alive a pas-
“ sion which, she hoped, he would
“ try with all his resolution to
“ stifle—and used many arguments
“ to this purpose. I could see that
“ though he thought them just;
“ he did not feel all their weight.
“ How hard it is to convince one
“ in love, to think it right to quit
“ the beloved object? even wis-
“ dom herself, when under the
“ disguise of Nestor, could not per-
“ suade the young Telemachus;
“ that seeking a hero, and a fa-
“ ther, was more glorious than
“ wasting his days in the flowery
“ fields of Calipso; and was
obliged

“ obliged to add force to his rhe-
“ toric to get him from his beau-
“ tiful nymph.—If the task is so
“ difficult, lady Lucy perhaps
“ might not succeed, as she can
“ never use any but the gentlest
“ methods: yet those, as Lord
“ Ormsby observed to his sister,
“ are oftener most effectual; for
“ many a person has given up his
“ own opinion, because he will
“ not seem ungenerous to the
“ friend, who attempts to change
“ it by soothing. I should say
“ much more on this subject, but
“ will not, by reflections, take your
“ attention from one more inte-
“ resting.—The servant returning
“ with

40 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ with Miss Dalton’s grateful
“ thanks for our indulgence, in
“ permitting her to receive us in
“ bed, and a desire of having that
“ honour conferred on her ; you
“ may imagine we did not wait
“ for any further invitation, and
“ left Lord Ormsby to amuse him-
“ self with a book, or walk,
“ though in my conscience he was
“ not then capable of finding
“ charms in either.—The servant
“ having shewed us to the door,
“ respectfully withdrew, as did
“ another that was with her. The
“ curtains being undrawn, and the
“ bed fronting the door, we had,
“ as it opened, a view of the most
“ perfect

and Lady Caroline S——. 41

“ perfect loveliness I ever beheld.
“ —Suppose virtue in her most
“ amiable form, suppose her too
“ dejected and oppressed, yet sup-
“ porting all her dignity in the
“ midst of misfortunes : and if to
“ these you can suppose a thou-
“ sand other nameless beauties,
“ you will then be able to form
“ some idea of Miss Dalton. Tho’
“ the shock she had undergone,
“ had faded the roses on her
“ cheeks, it had not robbed her
“ mouth of its coral ornaments
“ nor her skin of its transparent
“ whiteness; over which is spread
“ so delicate a languor, with fea-
“ tures so speaking, that you al-
“ most

42 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ most know her thoughts before
“ she delivers them by words.—
“ A famous artist, who once at-
“ tempted to draw the portrait of
“ such another woman, if such
“ another there ever was, after
“ finishing the copy, compared it
“ with the original; and was so
“ displeased with his performance,
“ that he immediately committed
“ it to the flames; though had
“ he found out that the fault lay
“ not in his skill, but in her ini-
“ mitable charms, he would cer-
“ tainly have done, as I shall do,
“ let it remain imperfect.—She
“ was sitting up in the bed sup-
“ ported by pillows; and her
“ words were so low as we entered
“ her

and Lady Caroline S——. 43

“ her apartment, that we could
“ only distinguish those of kind,
“ and distressed. Growing faint
“ on our approaching the bed,
“ Lady Lucy supported her in her
“ arms, and so much did she seem
“ affected, that had I just then
“ entered the room, a stranger to
“ both, scarcely should I have
“ known which to call the greatest
“ sufferer. Miss Dalton’s faintness
“ being owing to her too sudden
“ joy or surprize, she soon reco-
“ vered; when raising her head,
“ which Lady Lucy had placed on
“ her own bosom; and seeing me
“ on the other side, holding one
“ of her hands, which I could
“ not help pressing to my lips, she
“ looked

44 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ looked at both sweetly tender,
“ and the tears gushed from her
“ eyes. O my dear creature, said
“ Lady Lucy, don’t torture me
“ with such melting silent expres-
“ sion ; speak to me, my love, tell
“ me if you can bear near you, the
“ sister of the man who has so
“ greatly injured you?—Can I,
“ my noble Lady Lucy, do you
“ ask?—Ought I not to be dou-
“ bly thankful, that though God
“ has been pleased to visit me with
“ afflictions, he now vouchsafes
“ to send a guardian angel for
“ my protector?—Exalted excel-
“ lency! Lady Lucy called her,
“ and kissed her with affection
“ —Good God! said she, what
“ have

and Lady Caroline S——. 45

“ have I done to deserve such mer-
“ cy? Indeed I thought myself
“ deserted by the world, because
“ I had met with disappointments
“ in it; but never more will I
“ distrust divine providence. Un-
“ doubtedly you know, ladies,
“ what brought me to this place.
“ Yes, yes, my dear Miss Dalton,
“ my brother has done your vir-
“ tue the justice it merits; though
“ he was obliged to blacken his
“ own character to accomplish it.
“ —She looked pleased, and I
“ thought as if she would have
“ thanked him, had he been pre-
“ sent. She then asked if we knew
“ whether her mother was really
“ ill? Lady Lucy made no scru-
“ ple

46 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ ple to expose this part of her
“ brother’s scheme, to relieve her
“ mind from any apprehensions,
“ on account of Mrs. Dalton’s
“ health. She heard the whole
“ without throwing in one up-
“ braiding reflection; and then
“ said she would write her grand-
“ father, in whose breast the se-
“ cret should be only locked, for a
“ double reason; one of which
“ was, the obligation she was un-
“ der to Lord Ormsby, for the
“ honour he had this day procured
“ her; the other, a fear the dis-
“ covery of it to her mother,
“ might make her unhappy.—
“ Don’t you now, whispered her
“ ladyship, pity poor Lord Orms-
“ by?

and Lady Caroline S——. 47

“ by ?—Not so low but that Miss
“ Dalton caught his name, which
“ caused her visible emotion; but
“ what a nobleness of soul is she
“ mistress of!—Instead of trying
“ to hide it from us, Little, con-
“ tinued she, a few weeks since,
“ did I think the name I have just
“ now heard mentioned, could
“ have affected me. Believe me,
“ ladies, when I encouraged his
“ addresses, had I known his high
“ station, I should have held my-
“ self inexcusable, in lifting my eyes
“ to it.—This my brother knew,
“ said Lady Lucy, or he would not
“ have taken a borrowed name.
“ Nothing, my dear, have you to
“ blame yourself for; no person
“ but

48 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ but must have been deceived
“ by the many arts that were prac-
“ tised.—Even your good Mr. Ne-
“ vison could not see through
“ them; as your own hearts were
“ good, they would not give you
“ leave to think that others were
“ not cast in the same mould.
“ The whole fault falls on my
“ brother; yet you must not think
“ too hardly of him, because he
“ is my brother; and because his
“ penitence allows me to hope he
“ will again be to me that valua-
“ ble relation I have till now
“ thought him, to you, as valua-
“ ble a friend.—Let your health
“ be established, my dear, and all
“ must soon be well.—This
“ charming

and Lady Caroline S——. 49

“ charming condescension, she re-
“ ply’d, has dissipated every un-
“ easy fear, and will soon com-
“ pleat my recovery. Though his
“ lordship has deceived me, yet
“ will I do him the justice to think
“ he never would, had he not been
“ instigated to it by the vilest of
“ men, who makes the seduction
“ of innocence his boast.—What
“ a dear generous girl you are, said
“ her ladyship, that can attempt
“ at palliating a fault, which has
“ made you suffer so much! You
“ will certainly steal my heart, if
“ you go on this manner; why do
“ I say will, when the theft is
“ already committed?—How did
“ her fine eyes strive with her

VOL. III.

D

“ words

50 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ words to express her gratitude !
“ Lady Lucy observing it, turned
“ the subject, asking if she had
“ any objections to the people
“ about her ; for nothing is more
“ painful to a generous mind, than
“ to see a person oppressed by the
“ obligations you have bestowed
“ on them.—Those she had
“ lately seen, behaved extremely
“ well ; their characters, she said,
“ she was not now solicitous
“ about, his lordship’s disappro-
“ bation of his past conduct being
“ not doubted by her.—Did she
“ like her physician? if not, her
“ ladyship would send her down
“ her own.—On no account, Miss
“ Dalton said ; he seemed a good
“ humane

and Lady Caroline S——. 51

“ humane man ; as for his skill,
“ she should have but little occa-
“ sion for it, finding herself so
“ much better since our arrival :
“ and hoped that one more cha-
“ ritable visit would compleat her
“ cure.—Well then, my dear,
“ continued her ladyship, I will
“ content myself with sending my
“ own woman to be with you.
“ To-morrow we cannot see you,
“ but depend on it we will the
“ day following.—O dearest
“ madam, returned she, you
“ shower your goodness so fast on
“ me, that you will make me for-
“ get myself, forget I was ever
“ unhappy.—Don’t you think

D 2

“ your

52 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ your Juliet has been very silent
“ in this conversation? yet have I
“ borne my part in it; not a
“ praise or tender name that lady
“ Lucy bestowed, but was by
“ me repeated, and my silence
“ only reigned, when his lordship
“ was mentioned; and where the
“ name of his sister gave her that
“ right, which in me might have
“ been deemed impertinence.—
“ The consideration of sending Mrs.
“ Johnson, put us in mind, that
“ we had fifteen miles to return,
“ and as many for her to measure
“ back; which made us leave her
“ some hours sooner than we
“ should else have done.—As soon
“ as

and Lady Caroline S——. 53

“ as we were in the coach, his
“ lordship asked with eagerness,
“ what we thought of Miss Dal-
“ ton’s health?—And his eye
“ sparkled at our satisfactory in-
“ telligence. Indeed, Harriot, I sin-
“ cerely pity him ; for is not his
“ punishment nearly adequate to
“ his fault? How severe must be
“ his reflections ; for I do not look
“ on Lord Ormsby, as one whose
“ conscience is deadened by re-
“ peated crimes ; but rather lulled
“ asleep like a froward child.—
“ Lady Lucy asked him if Mr. Ne-
“ vison yet knew where Miss Dal-
“ ton was?—His Lordship owned
“ he did not ; he had suffered so
“ much since her illness, all in his

54 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ breast had been confusion. No-
“ thing else could plead an ex-
“ cuse, for not giving some ease
“ to the worthiest mind in the
“ world, as he knew his anxiety
“ must be great at not hearing
“ from her.—O brother, said
“ Lady Lucy, what pleasure have
“ I often received, to see the manly
“ tear steal down your cheek, at
“ recital of a distressed story; and
“ yet to make your heart a contra-
“ diction to itself is to me unac-
“ countable.—Come, Lady Lucy,
“ said I, you must not be too se-
“ vere on his Lordship, you see
“ he bespeaks mercy.—Upon my
“ word, answered Lord Ormsby,
“ I

and Lady Caroline S——. 55

“ I shall be finely managed be-
“ tween two such girls; but how
“ bad must be the crime, that
“ cannot bear the gentle reproofs
“ of a sister and a friend?——
“ Pardon me, my dear brother, for
“ what I have said; I do not mean
“ by it to give you uneasiness; and
“ to shew that you forgive me,
“ comply with the request I am
“ going make. Miss Dalton, tho’
“ the most amiable young woman
“ I have ever seen, and her mind
“ equally so with her person, can
“ never be your wife; the earl, I
“ doubt not, will expect when
“ you marry, to make that noble
“ family from which we sprung,
“ still nobler by alliance: and I

D 4

“ am

56 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ am sure you are so dutiful a son,
“ as not to give pain to a parent,
“ whose happiness, ever since our
“ remembrance, has consisted in
“ that of his children’s. After this,
“ surely, you yourself will think
“ it wrong to attempt seeing her.
“ ———You have convinced me,
“ my Lucy, said his Lordship,
“ that I ought not, neither will I
“ petition for more than one inter-
“ view ; but this I must intercede
“ for, as it is necessary to clear
“ myself from some things where
“ appearances are so much against
“ me——Her ladyship having
“ gained this point, acquainted
“ him with her intentions, of send-
“ ing Mrs. Johnson to be with
“ Miss

and Lady Caroline S——. 57

“ Miss Dalton till her recovery.—
“ How does my sister, said he, by
“ her kindness keep pace with my
“ wishes; I shall be more happy
“ when she is under the care of so
“ good a woman.—This from him
“ looks well, for had he any fur-
“ ther designs, he would have
“ objected to her being sent, as
“ he must have been detected by
“ her presence, she being a sensi-
“ ble worthy woman, whose
“ watchfulness and honesty is not
“ to be corrupted. Lady Lucy
“ prefers her to a younger servant,
“ and she in return loves her dear
“ young Lady with great affection,
“ having had the care of her from
“ her infancy: who that knows

D 5

“ her

58 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ her can avoid it? at Berks all
“ hearts were hers, one glance was
“ sufficient to make them own
“ her power. But her conversa-
“ tion fastened their chains, some
“ have dragged them to this me-
“ tropolis, among whom are the
“ young Sir James Egerton, and
“ Mr. Dulet. The country had no
“ charms for them after her Lady-
“ ship left it. But on their arrival
“ here, they did not long remain
“ in uncertainty; for no sooner
“ did they declare themselves than
“ she generously told them, their
“ attendance would be in vain;
“ she could never think in the
“ manner that their partiality to
“ her could wish, and hoped by
“ their

and Lady Caroline S——. 59

“ their acquiescence with her reso-
“ lutions, they would allow her to
“ rank them in the number of her
“ friends.—Thus did she oblige
“ each, without granting the re-
“ quest of either.—But I must now
“ hurry Mrs. Johnson into the
“ chaise, where she was seated in
“ less than five minutes after our
“ return. Lady Lucy intends tell-
“ ing the Earl she is gone to visit
“ a sick friend of her’s if he en-
“ quires for her.—Now, my dear,
“ though you will wonder, at the
“ first receipt of this large pac-
“ quet, what it can contain; and
“ many idle girl I fear, I have
“ been called, for not writing
“ sooner; how will you blame

D 6

“ yourself

60 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ yourself for the imputation, as
“ you will be convinced that every
“ moment I have had to spare, has
“ been employed in satisfying your
“ curiosity, which could not have
“ been done, had I sent it away
“ before my visit to Miss Dalton.
“ I know you want a second sight
“ of this charming woman; but
“ you must wait, my pen is tired;
“ —Adieu for this night;—to-
“ morrow I am again at the com-
“ mand of my friends at Ashley,
“ yet may I not hope to see you in
“ my dreams, with this pleasing
“ thought retires your affectionate

“ Juliet Hamilton.”

In

In continuation.

HOW disagreeable were my thoughts last night from what I flattered myself would employ the busy fancy of sleep. Instead of seeing people so truly dear to me, I had no sooner closed my eyes, than imagination conveyed me to lady Fetherstone's rout, seated me at a card-table, where I lost every shilling I was then mistress of, and had borrowed a large sum of lady Lucy, which soon went the same way. The spirit of play had taken such possession of me, that I was just going to part with my diamond necklace, to an old dowager countess,

62 *The History of Lady Frances*

ters, when the agreeable tingle of her ladyship's bell, awakened me. And I do assure you that I took myself to task, when I recollected the lengths I had run. Certainly a desire of gaming lies concealed in some corner of my heart, which I have not yet discovered. I believe it is already cured, even with my imaginary sufferings; if it can be so great when imperfect, what must those poor creatures feel who find it a reality? For my part, mine was for the time so severe, that I am resolved never to put it in the power of cards to make me wretched.—Lord Ormsby went
out.

and Lady Caroline S——. 63

out early the next morning, being called on by some of his acquaintance, to see a fine stud of Arabian horses, lately purchased by Lord Clare. His friends would take no excuse, though he attempted at many, as he waited the return of a servant sent early in the morning to R—— to enquire after Miss Dalton's health; but was obliged to go unsatisfied, as the gentlemen were determined. About twelve the servant returned with two letters, one from Mrs. Johnson, full of the praises of Miss Dalton; with the pleasing account of her having had a good night; and that the physician pronounced her out
of

64 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
of danger. The other letter was
Miss Dalton's, which I send you.
How grateful is her young heart !

“ Honoured Madam,

“ **I** Could not resist the pleasure
of writing, though persuaded
to the contrary by your good Mrs.
Johnson ; how weak appear those
arguments she uses in tenderness
to my health, opposed to those my
heart suggests to me of ingrati-
tude, did I not take the earliest
opportunity of thanking ladies to
whom I am so greatly indebted,
more for my reputation than life.
For what is the enjoyment of one
without the other ? Had God
Almighty

and Lady Caroline S——. 65

Almighty preserved the latter, though I knew myself innocent, yet must I have borne the reflections of the world; that would never have been convinced the step I had taken was against my knowledge. But your presence has dispelled every uneasy thought, and I shall return to my venerable parent, with a name un sullied, whose heart you will make happy when he hears of your unparalleled kindness to his daughter.—Indeed Mrs. Johnson, I must say more, my heart is full of the subject I am writing on.—Your ladyship must excuse me, this careful woman, will not let me sit up in my bed; she tells me, I shall certainly

66 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
tainly injure myself; I know I never can, while employed in so pleasing a task; yet I think I must comply, as, she says, she is sure your ladyship will be angry with me, should you know it. As I dread the shadow of offending you, I will resign my pen, after she has declared how much I am your ladyship's, and the amiable Miss Hamilton's ever obliged grateful

humble servant,
Elizabeth Dalton.

P. S.

Welcome to-morrow when you kindly said you would again see me."

We

We had but just read it when we were joined by Lord Ormsby; his quick return shewed his impatience, as did his eager steps as he approached us.—Give me leave, ladies, said he, to have some little skill in physiognomy; inform me, am I out in my art? for by those agreeable countenances I discern Miss Dalton's disorder is not now to be dreaded; tell me, am I right? —What a creature is your brother, Lady Lucy, to pretend reading a woman's mind in her face! Does he not know that they are often the greatest opposites? and now to reconcile them, and rob us of our former privileges, I think deserves some punishment.—Indeed
Juliet,

68 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

said her Ladyship, I am of your opinion; I myself will inflict it. Take that paper, presumptuous man, and, before we next see you, learn every word of it by heart,—giving him the letter. He took it with a smile, thanked us for our clemency, and replied he would diligently obey our orders. —In returning to the house, we met my brother, who had not seen us the whole preceding day; his friends leaving him but that morning. We acquainted him with all that had passed in his absence: How curious are these men? I thought this foible only belonged to our sex; yet my brother made us repeat our conversation
with

and Lady Caroline S——. 69

with Miss Dalton : next, her person, her eyes, her hair, and complexion, must fall under his circumspection ; as to her shape, that could not be described, as we had only seen in her bed. But I told him, if any idea of it can be formed from the delicacy of her hand, arm, and fine falling shoulders, which could not be concealed by the wrapping gown she wore, it was not inferior to her face. My brother pitied the lady, for what she had suffered, his friend for what he did and would suffer ; for he has, said he, a thorn planted in his bosom, which none but Miss Dalton can pluck from it. Great must be his struggles
between

70 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

between his love and duty; the latter must prevail, as there never was a son that revered a father more than Lord Ormsby. Lady Lucy may still glory in her brother. Happy would it be for some of our young nobility, were their hearts blended with half his good qualities. Indeed it might be said, he has lately stepped out of himself; but he scarce went a day's journey before he returned, disliking the road too much ever to think of travelling the same way.—Lady Lucy gave my brother a look, sweetly expressive of her heart, which was all gratitude for those praises he had bestowed on one so dear to her, but had not time to
say

and Lady Caroline S——. 71

say any thing. Lord Ormsby entering with the letters in his hand, prevented her.—You must, said she, thank Sir William for the obliging things he has been saying of you in your absence.—My thanks, said he, his friendly heart deserves; they are but his due; to make them acceptable, let me prevail on my dearest sister to join hers; these will be more pleasing to my Hamilton. — My brother only bow'd; he saw a blush on Lady Lucy's cheek, and would not add to her confusion, by making those acknowledgments he had so deep a sense of.—Giving the conversation a sudden turn, Mr. Temple called on me this morning, said he,

he, and talks of returning to Ashley Park, Mrs. Temple being impatient to visit my aunt. But you, ladies, will be acquainted with the time from themselves, as they intend seeing you this afternoon.

—I hope you will not imagine I was so unmindful of my dearest friends, as not to propose going with them : indeed I determined in my own mind to have left the charms of this gay town, but I could not be heard ; all were unanimous in their petitions that I would not leave them ; Lady Lucy declared she could not part from me ; Lord Ormsby entreated I would stay till I had seen the recovery of Miss Dalton ; and not
leave

leave her cure half compleated. My brother was silent, yet could I see that he wished me to grant their request. What could I do? I consented to oblige them, if my staying a few weeks longer will do it. But whispered her Ladyship, if in that time she did not agree to lay me under a much greater obligation, and return with me, she would not be that generous creature I always thought her.—Now, said she, you are very unreasonable.—Am I so, Lady Lucy? I'll appeal to the company. This drew the gentlemen to us; they wanted to decide, though neither knew what it was.—Provoking Juliet, said she, I am in your power, and you use me as a

74 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

conqueror, though far from a generous one; make your own terms, if you'll let not these officious creatures hear a word of what has past.—There's my good Lady Lucy, they shall not, if you keep to the article I first proposed.—You see, my Lord, said my brother, they are determined to make a peace without our mediation; true Spartan Dames, because we are conquered, they despise us. But yet, consider the noblest Romans, that never bowed their neck to slavery, with pleasure wore those chains by which we are held.—Let them alone, Sir William, said his Lordship, if you want to know what these girls have been talking of, don't ask, they will certainly tell

and Lady Caroline S——. 75

tell you. Miss Hamilton, notwithstanding the promise she has just made my sister, will not keep this to herself, for any wager, a week longer; don't you see how she wants already to disclose it? Come, whisper it me, it shall go no further.—True, my Lord, replied I, I am not a Portia, yet can I not consent you shall be so great a sufferer; for if I enjoin you to keep it to yourself, it might, perhaps, oblige you to the same hard shift, with the person who first discovered king Midas's ears were of too great a length.—Brother, said Lady Lucy, you have drawn this on yourself, for had you not first taxed us with

76 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
the want of secrecy, you would not have been put in mind, that it is full as great a burthen in your breast, as it can be in ours.—Indeed, Ladies, said my brother, you are too hard for us.—Not in the least, replied his Lordship, I protest I am not vanquished by them, and I thought my friend had more courage than to resign his arms, when the field is still our own.—The arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Temple, put an end to this sham fight; they intend seeing you Thursday next; the sight of them will not lessen your romantic notions. Scarce will you help thinking you have with you Musidorus, and his Pamela; but at the same time consider,

and Lady Caroline S——. 77

consider, that every man is not a Temple, nor every woman a Charlotte : yet I hope to bring with me at my return, two which shall vie with them in conjugal felicity, when the knot is tied, that is to make my brother the happiest of men. Little inferior to his joy will be that of your affectionate

Juliet Hamilton.

In continuation:

LADY Lucy coming into my room, before I had left my bed, I began to apologize, fearing I had made them wait breakfast. Don't be uneasy, said she, it is not so late as you imagine; the day

E 3

was

78 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
was so fine, that it tempted me to
get up two hours earlier than
usual ; both which I have spent
with my brother. You may sup-
pose the subject of our conversa-
tion was Miss Dalton ; after using
many persuasions, I at length
prevailed on him to let us go to
R——— without him. Still he
insists on one interview, when she
is at Mr. Nevison's. I have not
attempted in this to dissuade him,
as a passion oftener lessens by ab-
sence than opposition. Time and
the former will, I hope, be his
friend.—I am mistaken, I replied,
if poor Miss Dalton wants not the
same assistance ; she once loved
Lord Ormsby, I much fear the
flame

and Lady Caroline S——. 79

flame will break out afresh, when she is convinced his repentance is sincere. Must it not be heighten'd by the knowledge of his amiable sister's noble family and princely fortune?—Indeed, my Juliet, said her Ladyship, my brother's engaging manner, and fine person, cannot fail, I think, of making him still beloved; yet if her heart feels any uneasiness on his account, her own good sense, aided by Mr. Nevison's paternal advice, will, I doubt not, restore her former tranquillity. But let us haste to give her all the consolation in our power. I have ordered the chariot by eleven. Then looking at her watch, she said, I must shew my expedi-

So *The Histories of Lady Frances*
tion, as I had but two hours to
dress and breakfast in. I replied,
I would attend her in ten minutes;
and ringing for Sally, joined her
in less time, looking on those hours
spent at the toilet as lost; not but
I would have every woman stay
there long enough, to make her-
self agreeable in the eyes of her
friends; though I don't think it
absolutely necessary, to suit every
ribbon to the complexion, or put
on fifty caps before one will please.
So much for dress. To make up
for this little digression, I will not
detain you at the tea-table; but
leaving the gentlemen to them-
selves, will attend you to Miss
Dalton, whom we found so much
recovered,

and Lady Caroline S——. 81

recovered, that she was sitting up. If before we admired her face, how was her beauty heightened by a graceful stature and elegant shape. All that melancholy which appeared in her countenance when we first saw her, seemed now vanished. She was listening to Mrs. Johnson, who was reading to her when we entered. Running to us, once more let me thank you, Ladies, now on my knees for your goodness. Lady Lucy caught her before she had touched the ground. What means, said she, Miss Dalton! How is my charming girl? Having tenderly embraced her; I must not engross you all, I know Miss Hamilton longs equally to

82 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
have you in her arms. Your Ladyship, I replied, is very kind, and Miss Dalton must give me leave to hope she will allow me to share her heart with you.— Why, said the sweet creature, did I once repine? Take it, ladies, it is all your own; and none shall ever dispute it with you but a parent, from whom it first learnt to beat, and a poor old man who prizes it more than such a trifle deserves. But, I must, continued she, as you so kindly interest yourselves in my future peace, be pleased to hear, that I this morning received a letter from my friend, my benefactor, my father, my own I never knew: he dying
before

and Lady Caroline S——. 83

before my birth, his place has been well supplied by this best of men. I'll make no excuse for the application, when I mention my grandfather. No indeed, my good girl need not, said Lady Lucy, I long to hear how he bore what you communicated to him.—O madam, his worthy heart has greatly suffered from it, but his gratitude knows no bounds to the preservers of his daughter. But let me do him justice, giving us his letter, I send it to you, Lady Lucy having desired a copy for Lord Ormsby, who is so generously mentioned in it.

84 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

“ Mr. Nevison to Miss Dalton.

“ **N**Obly, my child, have you conquered in the cause of virtue ; that power I doubt not will still keep you near her, and in exchange for affluence, and the allurements of vice, give you content, health, and chearfulness. —Every incident of your distress has deeply wounded me. Tell Lady Lucy, tell Miss Hamilton, those guardian angels of innocence, how much I admire their exalted goodness ; a goodness, which has restored to me the treasure I was so near losing. In the prayers I am going to offer at the throne of mercy, I will remember

and Lady Caroline S——. 85

member Lord Ormsby; beg that his repentance may be lasting, and his good qualities shine out with redoubled lustre. For I am not a stranger to the source of all those libertine opinions he had entertained; and can make allowances for the imperfections of human nature. He now feels the force of truth, which conquers without any assistance; and will hate what he once was.—Suspicion and innocence seldom meet; how could you than suspect that under the appearance of merit, was hid a subtil poison, calculated to fascinate the senses, and lull us both asleep? Few they are that can fly from this serpent, under
the

86 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

the disguise of a friend ; but often when too late discover the deception, and the force of its baneful influence. For innocence, like the playful squirrel, skipping from bough to bough, unmindful of its safety, discerns the beautiful speckled serpent, attempting to climb the tree, which affords her liberty, food, and shelter. Not mistrusting it for an enemy, it descends nearer, whilst the fly reptile rolls himself in a thousand different ways, the more to attract her notice. Sometimes it towers its head, fold above fold, shewing its glittering scales, and then again basking in the sun of prosperity, licks the dust, attempting,
by

and Lady Caroline S——. 87

by devilish cunning, to bring his designed prey to the low level of his desires: till at length the poor animal, lured by deceitful appearances, having her head made giddy by them, drops into the extended jaws of the baneful snake, who exults in loud reproachful hisses, on the misfortune he had occasioned. Providence, my dear, has interposed, and snatched you from its ravenous jaws, to that Providence who inspired you with good inclinations, is owing your deliverance from the dangers you were surrounded with, and to the great Being let us raise our thoughts, never relying on our own strength,
but

88 *The History of Lady Frances*

but attributing to him all the praise; and from him learn to forgive and pity our enemies. For do not those wretches, my dear, who are hardened by guilt, till awakened by their remorseless tyrant, a tyrant of their own creating, do not they call for our pity? and does not the repentant, the now generous lord Ormsby, merit our forgiveness? Well, I know that you join with me in rejoicing to see him sensible of his errors; for your mild temper, like virtue, is all gentleness, unless when in danger; never apt to condemn without mercy, avoiding censure, as the enemy, not the friend of your sex. Some
women

and Lady Caroline S——. 89

women there are who look on it as theirs; but how greatly are they mistaken, for by depreciating others they only sink themselves in the eyes of those persons, to whom they address their scandal: who, though they are sometimes pleased with the recital, yet they despise the mean relators. Far unlike these degraders is my dear Betsey; my fond heart that approves her conduct, dictates to my pen her praises. I know too, that from me they will be grateful. I should have set out immediately on receiving your letter, but the duty of the Sunday intervening prevented me. I am now quite easy, knowing you are well protected,

88 *The History of Lady Frances*

but attributing to him all the praise; and from him learn to forgive and pity our enemies. For do not those wretches, my dear, who are hardened by guilt, till awakened by their remorseless tyrant, a tyrant of their own creating, do not they call for our pity? and does not the repentant, the now generous lord Ormsby, merit our forgiveness? Well, I know that you join with me in rejoicing to see him sensible of his errors; for your mild temper, like virtue, is all gentleness, unless when in danger; never apt to condemn without mercy, avoiding censure, as the enemy, not the friend of your sex. Some
women

and Lady Caroline S——. 89

women there are who look on it as theirs; but how greatly are they mistaken, for by depreciating others they only sink themselves in the eyes of those persons, to whom they address their scandal: who, though they are sometimes pleased with the recital, yet they despise the mean relators. Far unlike these degraders is my dear Betsy; my fond heart that approves her conduct, dictates to my pen her praises. I know too, that from me they will be grateful. I should have set out immediately on receiving your letter, but the duty of the Sunday intervening prevented me. I am now quite easy, knowing you are well protected,

90 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
tected, and hope to be with you
on Monday, when I shall fold in my
arms my dear daughter, who has,
for a number of years, enlivened
by her chearful duty the heart of
her affectionate parent.

E——d Nevison.

I will now suppose you acquainted
with the contents, and like
me admiring the writer, for a no-
bleness of soul, in offering up his
prayers for a man, from whose
hands he had so lately received
such an injury. What a god-like
system is the christian religion,
that teaches us to forgive our ene-
mies: yet it is a hard lesson, but
he certainly learnt of his great
leader.

leader, to pray for them that had despitefully used him. You may be sure he shared our praises; they were such as the eyes of his darling shewed were his due. After we had sat near an hour, Lady Lucy told Miss Dalton, she would greatly oblige her in recounting her first acquaintance with Lord Ormsby; and the manner of her detecting him; not to give you uneasiness, my dear, for if the remembrance pains you, I beg, said she, you will not think of satisfying my curiosity.—Miss Dalton answered, that it was what she had intended, but was too weak at our first visit to attempt it, and would have immediately begun,

92 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

begun, but we both desired her to defer it, till she had eat something for her dinner, nor could she prevail on us to leave her; so we all dined in a small apartment adjoining to hers, which serves her for a dressing room. As soon as the things were removed, and the servant had left us, I will not, said she, trespass, Lady Lucy, on yours and Miss Hamilton's patience; you are acquainted with Lord Ormsby's deception till my arrival at this house, except that my mother desired me to delay our marriage for some months on account of her health and other reasons which she would one day acquaint me with; to those reasons I
am.

am yet a stranger. In obedience to her commands I set out to attend her; Mr. Beaumont begged leave to accompany me, which was not refused him; his conversation, as we pursued our journey, seemed less serious than usual, and had in it something of a flighty turn, though very respectful. As I thought it was put on to dissipate the uneasiness I felt on account of my mother's illness, though I severely checked him, it gave me not the concern I felt the next day, when he spoke of the sacred rites of marriage, in such a manner as made me tremble. I immediately discovered to him my resentment, insisting on his seeing

94 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
seeing me no more. He then endeavoured to convince me, that what I had just heard escape him, was only the opinions of men, whose principles he abhorred, which he had repeated that he might hear them censured by me as they deserved. I said, if this is really your way of thinking, I am again happy. He protested it was. And I endeavoured as much as lay in my power, to banish from my thoughts what had passed. The day following, as we were walking in a meadow near the house, a servant that I had never before seen, delivered Mr. Beaumont a letter. His countenance turned pale as he read it; which

and Lady Caroline S——. 95

which when he had done, my dear Betsy, said he, I must leave you for a few days; this paper calls me from you, but make yourself easy, you must and shall be happy. I was greatly affected by his words, and a tear stole from me; I never can, said I, unless you are so. Might I not be made acquainted with the cause of this sudden dejection? Whether he had stole the sudden infection from my eyes, I know not, but his betrayed the same weakness. A friend, he reply'd, that I love better than myself, lies at the point of death, and has requested me to hasten to him. After this, though his presence was dear to me, I did not attempt

96 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
attempt to detain him. I never
loved him so much as at this mo-
ment ; the concern he had shewn
for his friend endeared him to me.
I revolved in my mind the satis-
faction I should enjoy with such a
companion, forming a thousand
agreeable schemes, which were
soon, very soon to be destroyed.
Thus, my dear Lady Lucy, are the
chearful mornings of our days, of-
ten obscured by envious vapours :
and our bright and flattering hopes
prove delusions, that are sometimes
fatal to those that raise them.—
The gloomy clouds of despon-
dency full of horror surround us,
and we are just sinking into the
graves ready to receive us—when
lo!

and Lady Caroline S——. 97

lo! the hand of heaven snatches us from the jaws of death, and the sun of righteousness breaking through the gloom again, enlivens the face of nature, at whose presence the clouds of discontent fleet away, and we again enjoy those blessings so long hid from us—Excuse, my dear ladies, this little digression from my narrative; gratitude prompted it, and still leads me on to repeat my thanks to my dear protectresses, those angels commissioned to save me from an early death; which sorrow, deep-rooted sorrow had near effected. But I will now make you acquainted with the motive that occasioned it.—On my entering the

VOL. III. F house,

98 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
house, I met at the door Mrs. Rogers, the person my mother mentioned in her letter as her friend, and in that character I thought she treated me with too much deference. She asked, if I had finished my walk? Yes, Mrs. Rogers, I replied, as Mr. Beaumont is gone, I will retire to my closet, and write my grandfather of my safe arrival; but will not close my letter, as I hope in the afternoon to give him the satisfaction of my mother's also. I went immediately up stairs and sat down to write, but wanting something from my writing box, and recollecting it was in a small breakfast room adjoining to another parlour, I went
to

and Lady Caroline S——. 99

to fetch it. I believe I stepped but lightly, as it did not disturb two people, deep in conversation in the inner room. At first I was going to run out, thinking Mr. Beaumont was returned, but hearing the name of Lord Ormsby (a name I was then unacquainted with) pronounced by a person, whose voice I did not immediately recollect; and imagining it to be an acquaintance of Mrs. Rogers, was returning to my chamber, when I heard her say that his lordship had just left me, and was proceeding to town, on account of the earl's illness. This gave me a confused notion of I know not what; none but Mr. Beaumont had seen

100 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
me since I came to this place ;
Mr. Beaumont could not be Lord
Ormsby. Such a supposition al-
most deprived me of my senses,
yet uncertainty was to me dread-
ful; and as I knew I could not
come at the truth by any other
means, I laid a constraint on my
rising passion, and attentively li-
stened to them. But what were
the agitations of my mind, when
I discovered the stranger's voice
to be Lord Edgmoor's? Well
might I shudder; what virtuous
mind could avoid it, when know-
ing she was in the power of the
vilest of men! My doubts were
soon confirmed in dreadful cer-
tainty, by his asking that infamous
woman

woman if I had yet discovered Mr. Beaumont to be Lord Ormsby. This question threw me into a violent shiver; I held my handkerchief to my mouth, to prevent them from hearing the noise my teeth made. Never did I so much dread fainting as at this moment. Luckily for me I had my hartshorn in my pocket; after applying it to my temples the shiver left me. The next thing I heard distinctly, was the letter that Lord Ormsby had just received (for I must now call him by that name, since no longer Mr. Beaumont) came from your ladyship. This illness of the earl, continued Lord Edgmoor, happens devilish un-

lucky; had he remained in health one week longer, my revenge would have been compleat, which cannot be without this girl's ruin. —But, my Lord, said the wretch, I am surprized you can part with so fine a creature to another; I thought your lordship's friendships were never carried to so great a length. No, Rogers, he reply'd, I am the same as ever; your master varies not, only circumstances differ. Nevison I mortally hate, as by his means I was deprived of Nancy Belmour; and the old fellow had made me appear so like the devil he preached about, that I found it impracticable to get Miss Dalton for myself. Then
where

and Lady Caroline S——. 103

where could I think of such another as Lord Ormsby, whose character is the fairest of our nobility; and nothing but such a woman could bring him down to our standard? Yet if he now raises any more scruples of pursuing his schemes, and you suspect his designs her honourable, directly acquaint me with it; and a chaise shall convey you and your prisoner (for such she then will be) to my house in the north. So one way or other my revenge must be completed.—Hartshorn was now of no farther use; this last shock was not to be supported: I fell senseless on the floor. When returned to life, I found myself in

104 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
bed with the most abandoned of
women sitting by me. The sight
of her added to my frenzy; I rav'd,
called on Lord Ormsby, exclaimed
I was a poor undone creature. She
try'd to sooth me; this the more
encreased my distraction. I pushed
her from me; go, go, said I,
shame to thy sex, go to thy vile
employer, tell him he is now re-
veng'd. She told me she would
not send to Lord Ormsby, and
without waiting for my reply ha-
stened out of the room. I started
with horror at his name, huddled
on my cloaths, determined to fly
far from him, and from those
who had almost brought him on
a level with themselves. I hastened
to

and Lady Caroline S——. 105

to the stairs, not knowing where my wild apprehensions would carry me. While trembling that I could scarce stand, I heard her behind me desiring me to stop ; I quickened my pace, and my foot slipping on the first stair, I came instantly to the bottom. I thought I had broke every bone, and suffered them to carry me quietly back to my room. A physician and surgeon were immediately sent for ; the latter declared I had not received any injury from the fall, except some bruises. What I had so lately heard, and what I then endured, made me incapable of speaking. Indeed I thought my-

106 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
self dying, and lifted up my heart
to God in grateful thankfulness,
that as such snares were laid for
me, he was graciously going to
take me to himself. The stupor I
then lay in was followed by a fe-
ver, which, I believe, the physician
imagined dangerous. Rogers ac-
quainted (as I suppose) Lord
Ormsby with it; for the next
morning I received a letter from
him full of the deepest contrition;
declaring if I died, he should look
on himself as my murderer; and
to convince me he was sincere, in-
formed me of what I before too
well knew, that Rogers was a vile
woman hired by him for the vilest
of purposes. That he had on his
arrival

and Lady Caroline S——. 107

arrival discharged her, and taken in her room a worthy good woman. That he was then at a little distance anxiously waiting each minute to hear of my health. And begged me for the sake of my reputation, which was now dear to him, not to contradict what he had said to those people about me, of my being his relation. But how much satisfaction did I receive in the succeeding letter, which informed me I should be honoured with your Ladyship's presence: that at once convinced me of your goodness, and his Lordship's sincerity, by making you acquainted with the whole.—My dear girl, said Lady Lucy, though I

F 6

have

108 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
have not interrupted you, to say
how much I have felt on the reci-
tal of your distress; yet believe me,
it has been great, I can hardly bear
the thought, that my brother, not-
withstanding I have already for-
given him, was an instrument of
revenge in the hands of the vile
Lord Edgmoor. But Juliet, said
her Ladyship, while our attention
has been thus engaged, we have
not observed the approaching even-
ing; I fear Miss Dalton's spirits
have been too much exhausted;
besides, I am horribly afraid of
these gentlemen, who claim the
roads by no laws, but the force of
arms; and I know you have have
not a sufficient stock of courage, on
an

and Lady Caroline S——. 109

an occasion of meeting them, to afford me a supply. I reply'd, that an opportunity had never offered for my shewing it, and I could not answer for myself. For before we are in danger, we know not what strength we are endowed with: for many a man in the day of battle is at first shocked at the sight of those armies before him, and would give all he is possessed of to quit the field; yet necessitated to fight, the fear of death pushes him, on and makes him a hero. So, Lady Lucy, by the same principles, we might as well be heroines.—Being informed the chariot was at the door, we took a most affectionate leave of Miss Dalton,

110 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
Dalton, first making her promise
to write often. On the road, her
Ladyship expressed her concern,
that Lord Ormsby might resent
the injuries he had received from
Lord Edgmoor; for which rea-
son, said she, I will conceal as
much of his black designs as is in
my power.—I had almost forgot
to tell you, that Miss Dalton has,
but in the politest terms, refused
to see Lord Ormsby; yet it is La-
dy Lucy's opinion, as well as
mine, that her brother can never
think of any other woman.—O
Juliet, said she, advise me how to
preserve the heart of my brother,
and not distress that of my father.
Indeed,

and Lady Caroline S——. III

Indeed, my friend, I cannot bear to see either unhappy. I answered, as she so obligingly called for my advice, I would give it frankly, in telling her I thought it would be very wrong, ever to make the Earl acquainted with any thing relative to this affair ; as it might be productive of very bad consequences. That of undoubtedly having an alliance proposed to him, would not be the least, which I saw no probability of Lord Ormsby's accepting. In that case, it would be only encreasing his difficulties, without any advantage accruing from it.—Right, Juliet, said her ladyship, it was but yesterday that my father mentioned
the

the alteration so visible in my brother; and begged me to tell him if I knew the cause; at the same time declaring he would remove it, if it lay in the power of his fortune. This kind assurance almost tempted me to reveal his secret, thinking this a favourable opportunity; but while I was hesitating, Come Lucy, said my father, tell me, has my son been unlucky at Newmarket? Or perhaps, continued he, he has lost more at Arthur's than he thinks consistent with prudence? These are follies, my dear, but we must not let him suffer; for then instead of reclaiming, it would only make him desperate.—I could not bear to have my

my father suppose he had been guilty of that vice; and assured him I knew my brother never play'd high, and that I had heard him condemn those who risked their fortunes on the chance of the die, the length of a straw, or the swiftness of a horse.—But, continued the Earl, what am I to think? Surely my son has not engaged his heart to a person unworthy of him; he knows how desirous I am of seeing him settled; had it been his equal, he would have given me the pleasure I have so long wished for; if the contrary, I hope I shall never be acquainted with it, as it will pain me to refuse what I am determined

114 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
mined never to grant.—This, said her Ladyship, made me drop my first intention; beginning to think my father had some intelligence of the affair. And I believe I looked a little silly, whilst I only said I imagined my brother's reverence for him, would not let him dispute his will.—I doubt it not, said my father, and shall be quite easy if I see him so. But I fancy your Ladyship (looking at me) is in the secret.—My dear Lord, reply'd I—Indeed, indeed (he kindly held his hand before my mouth) you shall not disclose it, my Lucy; could it give me pleasure, I am sure you would be the first in communicating it; and, if the contrary,

and Lady Caroline S——. 115

contrary, why should I desire to destroy the happiness I now enjoy? —Such a father! O my Juliet, heaven grant his peace may never be disturbed.—Thus did we dwell on this subject till our arrival in town. Lord Ormsby is greatly concerned that Miss Dalton will not see him, yet he owns her resentment is just.—We shall set out for Audley Castle in ten days, when I shall see those ladies who have taken up so much of our attention; and in admiring whom you have joined with your

Juliet Hamilton.

In

In continuation.

YOU have by this time my Charlotte with you, so I will suppose I am writing to both. It is now a week since Mrs. Johnson returned. Mr. Nevison came to R—— the Monday evening; he had travelled all the Sunday night; his impatience to see his daughter not suffering him to think of his fatigue: and being chear'd by her sight, he was enabled to pursue his journey home with her the next morning. Mrs. Johnson told us she never saw so affecting a scene as their meeting. — Lady Lucy has just left me; — always writing, Juliet, said she,

as

as she entered.—Indeed, my dear Lucy, I have got into such a knack of scribbling, that on sitting down to my table, the pen stole imperceptibly into my fingers, and proved the force of custom.—A very good one, replied her Ladyship, as as it entertains your friends. And see, I have brought you an employment in transcribing those letters for them.—What, said I, from our dear girl? The very same, she answered; a messenger has this moment brought them; I give you leave to love her, because you cannot avoid it; but be cautious how you say too much of the old gentleman, as I am his professed admirer. If you bestow
on

118 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
on him those praises which are his
due, I shall certainly be jealous.
I am now going to seek my brother,
to try if I can prevail on him
to grant her request.—So saying
she left me. As I send the inclosed
copies, I shall not make this letter
longer; but go to her Ladyship
to know if she has succeeded, and
to get for you her answer to Miss
Dalton's letter.—We set out for
Audley Castle in three days, when
you shall soon again hear from
your

Juliet Hamilton.

Miss

Miss Dalton to Lady Lucy Walton.

Madam,

YOU will see by the inclosed letters, that your noble brother has descended from his exalted rank, by offering to lift me to a station equal to that of my honoured protectress. The arguments I have used, will, I hope prevail on him to desist from seeing me; for I will not, if I can avoid it, lessen myself in your Ladyship's eyes, by permitting his Lordship's visits. Assure him, my dear Lady Lucy, that my resolutions are unalterably fixed; but that my heart acknowledges his generosity,

generosity, and rejoices to see him restored to himself, and to those minds where virtue always resides. My dear parent, by his anxious tenderness, has almost dispersed the sickly languor on my countenance; it now visibly gives way to returning health. Blest with chearfulness, enlivened by your friendship, an honour you bid me aspire to, whose healing influence I have already felt, I shall soon enjoy the sweets of calm retirement,

The world forgetting, by the
world forgot.

All

and Lady Caroline S——. 121

All I now wish is the continuation of your Ladyship's esteem, and that heaven would prolong to me the life of that excellent man, who with unwearied care, has shewn me the dangerous paths of youth, and pointed out the way to happiness. Where, tho' thorns often hurt the feet, and sometimes strike into the bosom, yet the charming and unbounded prospect before me, has helped to lessen the transitory pain I have felt. The path, which at my first entrance appeared rugged, is made smooth by contentment. Serene joy beams from her eye, and in her conversation I experience true pleasure. Assured by my director

VOL. III.

G

that

that the obtaining this sweet companion depended entirely on myself: would not your Ladyship have blamed me, if I had not immediately turned all my uneasy thoughts out of doors, to make room for a guest that will enlighten my mind, and make that life easy, which I once thought doom'd to be unhappy?—I have already taken up so much of your Ladyship's attention, that I will not now longer presume on it; only whilst I beg you to believe my heart full of the most grateful sentiments, which shall always be retained so long as life is lent to, honoured Madam,

Your obliged humble servant,

C. Dalton.

Lord

Lord Ormsby to Miss Dalton.

NOT daring, Madam, to intrude myself into your presence, suffer this paper to appear before you; my pen shall obey the dictates of my heart; O believe that heart now free from guilt, and in love with virtue! 'Tis you then I must still love, for you, like heaven, can forgive my bad intentions. My sister, dearer to me than ever, tells me you do. Convinced that titles and splendor are in your opinion lightly weighed, I will not throw them into the scale with the request I am going to make. Methinks I already see my crimes

124 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
sinking to the ground, while all I
can do to ballance them appears
like the gay bubble on the surface
of the water. Stop wretch, and
wonder at thy presumption! how
canst thou expect a reward where
a punishment is so greatly me-
rited! O Madam, that I could
hope you would look down on the
miserable writer of this letter, un-
worthy your esteem, though once
blest with it; and be united to
him by those bands never to be di-
vided. If you can prevail on your-
self to assent to this proposal, a
proposal on which all my views
of happiness depend; then will
you put it in my power partly to
atone for my offence; which shall
be

and Lady Caroline S——. 125

be the whole study of my future life: and in forming my conduct by your example, the force of that goodness I have attempted to injure, will be more conspicuous. I write your good Mr. Nevison, by this messenger, to beg his pardon for the pain I have given him, further presuming to hope I shall obtain it; for is he not commissioned from heaven to bestow it on the repentant? Could I but recal those schemes, which have darkened all my bright prospects, then would I gild them with the hopes of an answer favourable to my wishes, which would compleat the felicity of yours eternally,

Ormsby.

G 3.

Miss

Miss Dalton to Lord Ormsby.

YOUR Lordship's generous
propofal demands my thanks;
those joined with my esteem are
in your poffeffion; but never will
I, by black ingratitude, convince
your amiable fiftter, that the per-
fon on whom fhe lavifhed her ten-
dernefs, was unworthy of it. Con-
fider, my Lord, what you owe
yourfelf, your noble father, and your
exalted rank; a rank that it would
be the higheft prefumption in the
daughter of a dependant to afpire
to. The former errors in your
Lordfhip's conduct, are only like
spots in the fun that foon difap-
peared;

and Lady Caroline S——. 127

peared; but should I accept your hand, a cloud of oblivion would be cast over your brightest actions, and your generosity would be called a weakness. Contented in my retirement, and honoured with the friendship of Lady Lucy, I want no other addition to my happiness, than to hear you had chosen from the nobility, a lady remarkable for every beauty of mind and person: what great satisfaction will it then give the Earl to behold her strengthening by her rectitude of manners those principles of honour he early taught you: and then will I congratulate myself, for being the occasion of calling forth those virtues to public view.

G 4

—Let

—Let your reason, my Lord prevail, it will tell you I am unfit to move in the high sphere where you would place me. In the humble station I am determined to remain in, your Lordship shall always have the good wishes and prayers of your sincere friend, and obliged humble servant,

C. Dalton.

Lord Ormsby to Miss Dalton.

ALL my happiness is now vanished, and I am no longer worthy your notice. But O! forgive me, if I once more, though contrary to your commands, attempt seeing the arbitratress of my fate.

and Lady Caroline S——. 129

fate. Like a drowning wretch, I implore your hand to save me; for it is only in the power of Miss Dalton to rescue me from those thoughts, that are enemies to my repose, and will effectually swallow up my peace, if she refuses her assistance. If you hated not the once happy Beaumont, why will you not consent to let the repentant Ormsby expiate his offence, and reinstate himself in your esteem? 'Tis you, Madam, that must be the friendly star to guide me on my way; and by its influence, and sweet benignity, I shall then pursue a steady unerring course. But if deprived of its rays, I shall again wander dark

130 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
and bewildered. Let your generosity extend itself still further than to my forgiveness, and accept the hand of the unworthy injurer, who will study to merit so valuable a gift. Listen, generous, excellent woman, to my earnest petition; let me repeatedly entreat you to view me in the repentant light I now stand, and confer on me the highest obligation, by permitting me to visit the only person in the world capable of reviving in me those sentiments, which were first inculcated into my mind by the best of fathers. Yet I own to you, Madam, that his sanction will be wanting to our union, which I cannot acquaint him with;
knowing

and Lady Caroline S——. 131

knowing he will raise obstacles to retard it. But when you are irrevocably mine, he will be convinced that my choice has not in the least diminished antient nobility, but added lustre to it. I have ten thousand things to say, that will add weight to these already said. Consider, Madam, that in your power and disposal is my happiness or misery; confirm the first by your acquiescence, and for ever banish the latter, then you will always find me your grateful

Ormsby.

Mr. Nevison to Lord Ormsby.

NOW do I behold your Lordship, like one who has long lost his friend, thinking him dead, and again sees him restored to life. You have, my Lord, repented of your faults, which has enriched the soil of your mind; and instead of baneful weeds, the fairest flowers will spring from it. Yes, my Lord, the manner of confessing your errors, has discovered to me every virtue that had been choaked by them. Blushingly do they rear their heads with virtuous pride, ashamed of their former companions! O suffer them not again

and Lady Caroline S——. 133

again to take root in a soul given you for the noblest purposes!—I own your Lordship's combat hard. Your foes were powerful. Your passions strengthened by youth, custom, and the snares laid to entrap you, by those who glory in their converts to wickedness, required heroic courage to conquer. The conquest so difficult, how much then is the merit? Remember, my Lord, that you have given an old man leave to prate; and old men are naturally talkative. Tho' I am not qualified for the office of a dictator, yet, as you have conferred it on me in calling for my advice, you shall freely have it. But I am afraid, that like an unskilful

134 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
skilful surgeon, I shall make your
wounds bleed afresh ; when per-
haps lenitives would effect a cure,
without the pain a caustic occa-
sions. But as this last method ge-
nerally prevents a mortification,
suffer me to use it. As a mortifica-
tion of the mind seldom stops till
it has seized every vital, and ren-
dered the whole insensible ; it be-
gins by opposing evident truths,
and when once driven on an ab-
surdity, it is not easy to alter its
opinion ; for deaf to reason, and
blinded by sophistry, it obstinately
defends contradictions, and calls
the banishment of shame and mo-
desty strength of mind. Such a
disease of the mind is past cure,
and

and Lady Caroline S——. 135

and is too of so black a nature, and so communicative, that whoever approaches near, runs the danger of infection. This companion is Lord Edgmoor, whom your Lordship once made your oracle; which like that of Delphi, never told truth, unless to assist his vile designs. Actuated by a principle of revenge towards me, he artfully search'd into your soul, and having there discovered your love for my daughter, thought her ruin and mine certain; by inculcating into it those pernicious principles which your passions coincided with. They were at that time wild and savage. You could not then relish the beauties of the sacred writings,

136 *The History of Lady Frances*

writings, or the precepts they convey. Now, my Lord, let your good resolutions be enforced by these heavenly guides, and be no more misled by the faint glimmerings of philosophy. I know that when your Lordship looks back on some parts of your former conduct, you will shudder at yourself; and abhor the thoughts of the complicated misery you must have occasioned, had your scheme succeeded. Some men there are, whose unfeeling hearts can behold distress without being softened by it. Your Lordship has convinced me, that yours is susceptible of the most refined sentiments, when you permit reflection to prevail
over

and Lady Caroline S——. 137

over passion. Assure yourself, my Lord, that I sincerely forgive the injury you intended me, which it pains me to mention; but I thought it necessary, as without it I could not expose the character of the bad man, whom you called friend; but as much incapable of being a true one, as the burning sands of Africa are of fertility. Fly, my Lord, fly from such deceivers, and be not again misled by an ignis fatuus. I will pray heaven to strengthen your growing virtue, and bring it to maturity. But while I admire the noble manner of confessing your errors, I must condemn your generosity, in offering to rank my daughter
with

138 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
with nobility. Reflect, my Lord,
what pain you would give your
father by such a step; the undif-
cerning world would call her for-
mer conduct, when known, artful,
and the mouth of common fame
throw the vilest odiums on both
your characters. Your reason, my
Lord, must agree with our senti-
ments which are definitive. These
objections against the honour you
intend us, never can be removed.
Therefore your Lordship will par-
don me for declining it, and I
hope will believe to be highly sen-
sible of the obligation you would
confer on your Lordship's sincere
friend, and obliged humble ser-
vant,

—— Nevilson.

Lady Lucy Walton to Miss Dalton.

HOW, my dear charming girl, can I blame my brother for his perseverance, when the object before him, is so worthy his pursuit. I have just now shewn him your letter, and heard all his arguments against your fixed resolutions. I must join with him in saying you are a jewel fit for the crown of a Prince. Could I prevail on my Father to consent that Lord Ormsby should wear it next his heart, my most ardent petitions should not be wanting: but since the Earl is unacquainted with your value, and must remain

a stranger to the occasion of my introduction to you, as my brother's faulty conduct, if justly exposed, would irritate him, and perhaps drive his now darling son from his presence; this considered by me, I have absolutely forbid him from disturbing your returning quiet, having, you know, received a commission to regulate his behaviour in this affair: an affair in which, not only his own happiness, but that of so many individuals is concerned. I will not pain you by recounting how much his lordship said, to make me retract my harsh, cruel command, as he call'd it; I tell him that he must endeavour to merit your forgiveness by a chearful

and Lady Caroline S——. 141

ful acquiescence in your inclinations. Did I imagine, he said, that you would honour him with your preference, if fortune should put it into his power, to call you his, he was determined never to marry, if you denied him your hand. He hoped a favourable opportunity of communicating your worth to the Earl; that, since he must suffer by painful suspense, yet he should be content to be the only sufferer, sincerely congratulating his dear Miss Dalton, on her returning health and tranquility; which he, by his vile arts, so barbarously disturbed. He never spares himself on the occasion that discovered to me your merit;
and

142 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
and by turning self-accuser, I
own has disarmed my resentment,
and softened it into pity.—How
unworthy, my dear, should I be of
your friendship, could the incident
of high birth make me forget
your shining example, for is it not
virtue that enobles, and is not vice,
tho' dressed in gold and jewels,
contemptible?—Miss Hamilton,
who is also your admirer, is pre-
vailed on to accompany me in a
visit to Lady Frances Worth-
ley at Audley Castle. Your let-
ters will find us there, as we pro-
pose setting out for that place on
Thursday next. That content,
your feet companion, may long
be an inmate of your bosom, is
the

and Lady Caroline S——. 143

the sincere wish of her, who styles
herself your affectionate friend,

Lucy Walton.

After Lady Lucy and Miss
Hamilton got down to Audley
Castle, several letters between the
latter and Miss Wentworth are
omitted, as being of little con-
sequence.

Miss Hamilton to Miss Wentworth.

I HAVE already told my
dear Harriot, how much we
have been employed in receiving
and paying visits to the neighbour-
ing families, which are here very
numerous.—Audley Castle is like
the

¶ 44 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

the mind of its owner, noble and elegant ; nature has here diffused her various beauties with a bounteous hand ; which mingled with the nice touches of art, afford the most delightful ideas. This magnificent edifice overlooks a wide circuit, that it seems to awe. At the entrance into the avenue, you see it, at the distance of three miles, placed on an eminence, with a gradual ascent ; the park, in which it stands, is the largest in England, and the plantations are so well disposed, and have such an appearance of grandeur, that you immediately own their excellency. A fine river winds its way through the green verdure ;

dure ; herds of spotted deer roving about, or lying on the banks, fearless of Acteon's fate. Here the eye may rove from one object to another, without danger of satiety ; for, as you ascend, the prospect widens to a vast extent ; and the lavish hills almost touch the clouds ; those that are not so ambitious, are adorned with the seats of the nobility, and gentry, enriched with agriculture and smiling plenty.—A navigable arm of the sea reaches almost to the foot of the castle, where stands a small town, and a venerable old abbey in nodding ruins. On the opposite shore, is an alabaster rock of a surprising height ; that

146 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
suffered much by time, who with
his iron tooth, has broken down
large pieces, and has gnawed
others so much, that they look as
if hung in the air by a needle's
point. I am so great an admirer
of natural curiosities, that I could
not restrain my desire of ventur-
ing near, to examine this. The
sun shone full on it, and gave so
fine a lustre to the different co-
lours, that my attention was so
much taken up, I never once
thought of retiring, till lady
Frances, and lady Lucy reminded
me, that we had spent two hours
there, and should soon be sur-
rounded by the tide, if we did
not retreat to our boat.—I will

now

and Lady Caroline S——. 147

now lead you to a wood, on the left hand of the castle, sacred to Contemplation ; who is placed at the entrance of it. Wisdom stands by her side, Folly is running away from them, stopping his ears. These three figures are well executed. The river meandering through the park, rises at this place ; it is remarkably clear, and though its origin appears only like a weeping rock, yet it widens, as as it flows, to a vast expansion, and sometimes rushes through broken arches, placed on purpose, to shew, that like Virtue, it could make a way through difficulties, and discover a proper resentment, when obstructed ; but soon again

148 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
subfides into its native calm. The
walks on the banks, and the ve-
nerable trees, which here often
unite their branches to form a
shade for the lovers of solitude,
inspire you with thoughts, which
none but those who would wish
to fly from themselves will avoid.
In a corner of the wood is a
Druid's temple, composed of the
roots of trees, and in the center
of it a fine painting of the Druid,
with a golden knife in his hand,
extended to gather the sacred
mistletoe, attended by the bards,
singing the praises of their gods.
This, and a hermitage, are the
only buildings formed by hands.
How would you, my dear Har-
riot,

and Lady Caroline S——. 149

riot, who are so fond of retirement, enjoy this charming solitude ! No more will I attempt to laugh you out of your romantic notions, as I used to call them ; for, if I continue here much longer, I am afraid, that like our first parents, I shall, with unwilling feet and averted face, quit this paradise. On looking over what I have written, my wanderings have surprised me ! at my first setting out, I only proposed leading you to the castle, and I find that I have carried you over hills, and thro' vales, and placed you under a huge rock ; but looking up, seeing danger whirling a fragment of it at my head, I fled from it, conveying

H 3

150 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
veying you to this wood. If you
are not yet tired, I shall direct
your steps to the castle ; but as I
am not an architect, I cannot tell
you of how many orders it is
composed. It is allowed by pro-
per judges to be a masterly build-
ing ; and calculated for magnifi-
cence. The sides of the hill on
which it stands, are planted with
a variety of shrubs and vines, and
from the windows you command
prospects the most delightful.
The furniture of lady Frances's
dressing-room, is entirely her own
work, in which fancy seems ex-
hausted. The flowers of her
creating almost equal the origi-
nals. A noble collection of pic-
tures

and Lady Caroline S——. 151

tures adorns every room; but knowing you are already acquainted with the characters of the chief ornaments of this house, and as I cannot find words expressive of their actions, which are noble, uniform, and beneficent, I close this letter, enjoying the pleasing reflection, that power and goodness are in them united. Now Harriot, say for once, that I am not unmindful of my promise. I expect to be rewarded for my goodness, with another long letter, which will give the highest satisfaction to Your

Juliet Hamilton.

H 4

In

In continuation.

I This morning arose before the sun, my eye now follows him over the hills, while the birds celebrate his approach with their soul-felt harmony. My spirits too are exhilarated with that bright object who unfolds to us the beauties of the creation ; and I cannot help condemning myself, and all those who often suffer dull sleep to invade their senses, and rob them of such pleasing meditations. The rosy-finger'd morn, unbarring the gates of light, so charmingly described by Milton, appeared in all her glory ; and I
stood

stood an hour at my window, an admiring spectator. Though I have taken up my pen, to fulfil the pleasing task you have enjoin'd me ; yet I every minute lay it down, to snatch a look at the gay Aurora ; who, having ting'd the clouds with purple and gold, is just leaving us, to make room for the brighter sun, who, by slow degrees, draws up the curtain of night, and exposes to me stately edifices, glittering spires, scatter'd villages, and humble hamlets, to which, perhaps, its beams are more welcome, than to the houses of the great, where it is too often shut out by luxury ; a guest much courted, and the foe of health.

154 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

—At present she is my friend, and the blithe milk-maid cannot boast more of her favours.—We are this day to dine under the large rock mentioned in my last, for which purpose a magnificent tent is pitched, a band of music provided, and a large yacht of his lordship's, finely ornamented, waits to carry us to it. Several neighbouring families are to breakfast here, and be of our party. The morning had slid away so agreeably that I had not perceived how the hours wasted, till two chariots, which are this instant driving up the avenue, put me in mind that it must be late. The first is lady Mary Frampton's, the once supposed

and Lady Caroline S——. 155

posed rival, but always intimate friend, of lady Frances Worthley, to say which is, to pronounce her mistress of numberless good qualities. The next, by the shewy liveries, I discern to be Mr. Wilfon's, a gentleman who has acquired a vast estate in the East-Indies. On his return to England, he married a pretty woman, of small fortune; who, whilst Miss Jones, was generally esteemed, but that esteem she has now lost, by a behaviour quite opposite to her former. Instead of that amiable humility, for which she was once distinguished, she has convinced all her former acquaintance of her imagined superiority.

periority over them, by airs of distance, and throwing off the mask, has discovered what they took for humility, to be a meanness of soul, that could not bear with equality the smiles and frowns of fortune. She, the other day, met with a severe mortification, to that pride, which employs every movement of her mind and body. We chanced to meet her at lord E——'s, where was Miss Nevil, a young lady that, when her fortunes were low, honoured her with her friendship; but, on finding that Mrs. Wilson had caught the reigning foible, the loss of memory, not being able to to recollect her former acquaintance,

ance, unless they were people of rank, she declined giving her any opportunities of exercising her insolence on herself. While Mrs. Wilson, of a mean family, and without any expectations, was raised suddenly to affluence, Miss Nevil, though well born, had experienced all the painful vicissitudes of fortune, her father having sunk great part of his estate at Arthur's. Lady E——, whose delightful character you are not unacquainted with, is become her patroness, since which, her good sense and sprightly wit, have recommended her to a gentleman of this neighbourhood; who has overlooked the want of fortune, where

158 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
where he could see none of merit.
Mrs. Wilson had been intimate
with her, when prosperity gilded
all her days ; but, having enter-
tained an opinion, that adversity
was a great debaser, thought Miss
Nevil now sunk by it, even below
her notice ; the advantages of
birth, generosity and merit, were
all disregarded by this mean level-
ler. And when ever chance
brought them together, she would
stare confidently at her, as if un-
certain whether she had ever be-
fore seen the person, whom she
once prided herself in calling
friend. Then with half averted
face, and a contemptuous silence,
would, perhaps, vouchsafe her
the

and Lady Caroline S——, 159

the honour of a distant curtesy: Miss Nevil's discernment soon discovered the despicable motive, from whence this behaviour proceeded; which was too low to give her concern. It is true, she had once flattered herself, that in Mrs. Wilson's house she should find a safe asylum, till her father's affairs could be settled; but now thanked her stars, that they had not placed her in the power of an insulter. lady E——, the protectress of all the unprotected, that fall under her observation, hearing of the difficulties, in which her father's vices had involved her; immediately gave her so genteel an invitation, as might almost
make

make the obliged think herself the obliger ; and now treats her with the same affection, as her own daughters. Mrs. Wilson, fond of being seen with people of distinction, and hearing her ladyship was in Suffex, instantly made her a visit. Lady, Frances, lady Lucy, and myself, had been seated but a few minutes, when she entered with apparent surprize, which I soon observed was occasioned, by the presence of Miss Nevil ; but recollecting, I suppose, that she must be in a state of dependence, and regulating her behaviour according to the noble plan she had laid down, that vanished, and a fashionable sneer took its place, which

and Lady Caroline S——. 161

which did not pass unobserved, and the person for whom it was designed, determined, as she afterwards told me, not to let slip a favourable opportunity of holding up a mirror to her follies. One soon offered, which was readily laid hold on by that young lady. As the satire pleased me, I will try to recollect it. The great respect and affectionate behaviour of Lady E——, with the assiduities paid her by the honourable Mrs. Hilton, soon awakened Mrs. Wilson's curiosity, which she sent out as a scout, and it brought intelligence from the lady who sat next her, that Miss Nevil was soon to be raised to a station of life, that
would

162 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
would far outshine her own.
Giving a few moments to thought,
she rose from her chair, and advancing,
began to apologize, with all the effrontery of one who
thinks they confer an honour on
those with whom they converse;
imagining, no doubt, that her
being a person of fashion, a very
usual term, I must own, would
authorize the most gross affronts.
Miss Nevil, said she, will excuse
my not having till this moment
recollected her. I am immensely
near-sighted, and cannot really
discern any object across the room.
Indeed, madam smartly returned
Miss Nevil, I condole with you
on your new misfortune, frequently

and Lady Caroline S——." 163

quently attended by a total deprivation of memory. When I had the pleasure of your acquaintance, you was then happy in both: The loss of them I must attribute to the great distance fortune has now placed between us. If we do not think it strange, that objects lessen, as they are removed farther from our notice, neither should Mrs. Wilson, when she knows her short-sightedness proceeds from the same common cause. Though mortified and confused at this severe reprimand, she seemed not to understand it, and re-assumed her chair, first saying, she hoped for the pleasure of seeing her at Wilson-hall. But that

164 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
that she was stung to the quick,
the sticks of her fan in loud
cracks reported to the company,
who all enjoyed her secret humili-
ation. I am just summoned to
breakfast. As our coaches are wait-
ing to carry us to the water imme-
diately after it, I shall leave this
letter unfinished, in order to let
you know how we spend the day,
that has broken on me so charm-
ingly.

Where will this end ! A messen-
ger is just arrived from the Duke
—Sally tells me, his horse was
rid so hard, that it dropped under
him. Lord Henry appears con-
cerned ; Lady Frances is retired
in tears to her apartment, Mrs.
Worthley

and Lady Caroline S——. 165

Worthley with her. His Lordship's travelling chariot ordered to be got ready. Well, I again repeat, where will all this end! The company only staid breakfast, finding our scheme would be dropped for that day.

Just as I had wrote the last word, Lady Frances and Lady Lucy came to me; the former gave into my hand this letter, at least as near as I can recollect, which at once explained what had before appeared to me so mysterious.

“ Though my dear child has
“ offended against the duty she
“ owes myself and her mother,
“ yet nature strongly pleads in our
bosoms,

" bosoms, and has at last prevailed.
 " I own we have been too fe-
 " vere, and ought sooner to have
 " listened to its pleadings. Now
 " too am I punished for my in-
 " gratitude to my brother, in see-
 " ing the person's life, dearer to
 " me than my own, endangered
 " by a disorder, generally fatal to
 " those who dread its effects.
 " Your mother was a fortnight
 " since seized with the small-pox,
 " and is not I fear out of danger.
 " Inexpressible, my dear Fanny,
 " is my distress. Hasten then to
 " relieve and console by your pre-
 " sence, an afflicted, but
 " affectionate father."

We

and Lady Caroline S——. 167

We proposed attending her ladyship to town ; but by hers, Mrs. Worthley's, and Lord Henry's joint sollicitations, have laid aside our intentions ; and promised to stay here one fortnight longer. Poor Lady Frances was divided between her joy and grief, the former proceeding from the pleasing hope of being tenderly received by her parents, the latter from her Grace's indisposition. Mrs. Worthley, at parting with her, fondly embraced her : its now, said she, I feel the pain of separation. O thou reward of all my sufferings, how can I loose thee from my arms ? Yet, as your affection is called for, to afford
consolation

168 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
consolation to her Grace, that
thought, together with the happy
reconciliation which now awaits
you, shall be my comfort. Do
not thus alarm yourself, my dear
Lady Frances,—I see apprehen-
sion smile on your countenance;
call to your assistance that forti-
tude, with which heaven has en-
dowed you; and it will bear
you through every trial sent by
the same unerring hand. Lady
Frances thanking her, promised
she should never be absent from
her thoughts. Lord Henry is
gone with her to town; but in-
tends returning in a day or two;
so now are we all in full expecta-
tion of a letter from her Lady-
ship.

and Lady Caroline S——. 169

ship. I say we, because she has desired Mrs. Worthley to communicate to us every thing she writes, —We have been here three weeks, and have not yet found any fault with time; then why should it be considered as an enemy? when in our power to make it an immortal friend. Instead of that, our petit maitres are continually attempting to kill it, by wounding it with pick-teeths, snuff-boxes, and a thousand other trifles. I myself have often abused it, but always repented my offence; and, for the future, desire you will correct me, when I prove so ungrateful, being determined

VOL. III

I

you

170 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
you shall know how time ambles,
trots, or gallops, with

Your

Juliet Hamilton.

Lady Frances Worthley, to Miss
Worthley.

I Write the first moment I leave
my mother's apartment, to ac-
quaint the person that stands in
the same dear and tender light,
and those amiable ladies now with
her, that I am as happy as a
daughter can be, who is in con-
tinual fear for that life that was
ever valuable to me, even when
treated unkindly. How much
must it be now heightened, when
each word, each look, speaks the
kind

and Lady Caroline S——. 171

kind the indulgent mother. With a heavy heart I left you ; uncertainties are ever painful. My dear father's letter made me hope to be kindly received ; yet, pleasing as this hope was, it did not compensate for the uneasiness I suffered at the thoughts of her grace's indisposition, and the probability that I might arrive too late to receive her forgiveness. My uncle, who saw my concern, endeavoured to dispel it, by turning my thoughts on Mr. Worthley, painting to me the joy he would feel at the happy reconciliation. When thinking of him I imagined the chariot went not so slow, as as I had often before complain'd

172 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
it did. My uncle set me down
at my father's, and then retired
to Grosvenor-street; first saying,
he hoped my spirits would support
me, in the pleasing, yet painful
task I had to go through. Such
a damp that moment struck my
heart, I could not speak; I took
his dear hand, and held it to my
lips; how long it would have re-
mained there I know not, but on
our stopping, a footman opened
the door, and we were obliged to
part, my uncle not choosing to
see my father, till he knew whe-
ther his presence would be agree-
able. A trembling seized me at
alighting, and my feet would
scarce support me to ascend the
steps;

and Lady Caroline S——. 173

steps ; I was even startled at seeing the knocker muffled, though, had I recollected, it is no more than what is usual in cases of sickness ; but my spirits were tender, and then every little incident flutters. On entering the house, I asked for Mrs. Dalton, who hearing my voice, immediately came to me. All the resentment I had before borne her, vanished at the visible alteration in her countenance, so pale, so thin, so melancholy ; to what could I attribute the change, but to her great regard for my mother, and the fatigue she must have undergone in her illness. She informed me, that her grace had been in

174 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
imminent danger, while the disorder was on the turn ; but those symptoms they then feared, had now quite left her. This satisfactory account enabled me to support the presence of my father, who just then entered. I threw myself into his arms, which he had opened to receive me, and kissed his paternal lips, being emboldened to it, by hearing him repeatedly call me his dear, dear daughter. Fanny, said he, you have not yet received half our blessing ; your mother longs impatiently to see you. I would have kneeled to thank him for his goodness ; but he prevented me. O, replied I, how has my dear father, by his generous

and Lady Caroline S——. 175

nerous forgiveness, raised the depressed spirits of his child? We have all something, answered he, to be forgiven; for if you took a wrong step, not altogether consistent with your duty, we drove you to it, by forcing Lord Milford on your inclinations, when you declared how much they were averse to him. But I can now say with my whole heart, laying his revered hand on my head; may heaven shower its blessing on my daughter, and the person to whom her fate is joined. Do not you, my dear mother, feel for me, the force of this blessing. I know not how I was that moment, all transported with his goodness.

I 4

Mr.

176 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

Mr. Worthley being included in it, doubled my joy ; the thanks I paid were incoherent, flowing so fast from my heart, that they almost choaked my utterance. He then led me to my mother's room. This interview, like the former, filled me with rapture : all was again repeated by her, my father's endearing blessing renewed, each striving which could shew the greatest marks of affection. Neither was my uncle forgotten ; he was, they both said, the only one who had nothing in his conduct worthy of blame, and severely laid on all themselves, for their treatment of him. I interrupted their accusations ; none, I said, had
a greater

and Lady Caroline S——. 177

a greater share in his affections than themselves; that at the happy prospect of my being again received, he came to town with me, and a kind message from either would soon convince them how much, how tenderly he loved them. They were delighted; my father immediately ordered his chair, and went to Grosvenor-street. My mother could talk of nothing but his Lordship, till my father returned, and introduced him to her: my generous uncle would suffer no thanks, no condescensions, to be paid him; and declared his brother had already expatiated too much on what had passed, and tenderly saluting each,
he

he again begged all might be forgotten.—Thus, my Mrs. Worthley, thus, my other dear friends at the Castle, am I now possessed of all those hearts, I ever wished to gain ; yet cannot my felicity be ascertained, until I see that person, by whom every pleasure is heightened, when divided with him ; and whom I shall hasten to acquaint with those delightful views before us. That mine may not be darkened by the loss of him my soul holds dear, are the incessant prayers of your happy dutiful, and affectionate daughter,

Frances Worthley

and Lady Caroline S——. 179

P. S. My uncle will see you tomorrow, with Lord Ormsby.

Lady Frances Worthley to Mrs.
Worthley.

YOU certainly, dear Madam,
have been surpris'd at my
silence for more than a week,
Lord Henry, I knew, would tell
you all that had pass'd before he
left us, and then my mother is so
fond of having me with her, and
myself equally desirous of that
honour, that I am scarcely a mo-
ment alone. Had I been always
used to such tenderness, might I
then have felt that transcendent
pleasure

pleasure it now brings me? Are not the greatest blessings often overlooked by a long continuance of them? For do we not generally express more joy at a fine day in the winter, than at the many months that roll on in a continual succession of them? and yet I hope I should not have been unthankful, had I been always so happy. My mother left her room yesterday; my father, I think, is, if possible, more fond of her than ever; and seems not to observe the least alteration in her person. You say, you fear for her, when she herself sees it, but you did not then know, that an equal change was wrought on her mind; and

and Lady Caroline S——. 181

and to convince you it is, I'll repeat to you her words, when the glass, by her own orders, was first brought her. Fanny, said she, looking on it, learn from me never to set a value on your outward form ; all my life I have been employing my thoughts on mine, and observe how one short month has erased for ever, every real and imaginary beauty ; yet, believe me, my dear, when I tell you, that in all the bloom of youth, I never beheld myself with such pleasure, as at this moment ; seeing the grave where my former follies are buried.—Now, dear Mrs. Worthley, do those flowers in my mother's mind appear, which

182 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
which you one day remarked,
would certainly be the produce of
so rich a soil. She has already
made me relate to her the pro-
gress of the most sincere affection,
that ever subsisted in the human
breast; and, after I had finished,
why, Fanny, said she, did I ever
attempt to divide you from such
merit? Was I not by this over-paid
for my recital, and you, my dear
Mrs. Worthley, have in my mo-
ther a new admirer?—Death yet
hovers o'er this house, beckoning
one that starts at his appearance.
Mrs. Dalton, who has been con-
stantly with my mother, during
her late disorder, was seized four
days since with the small-pox,
not-

and Lady Caroline S——. 183

notwithstanding her being convinced, as she thought, of her having before passed it. The eruptions are of the confluent kind, and attended with symptoms which leave no room for hope. My dear mother is really much concerned ; the same physicians that were employed for herself, she still retains to attend this distressed woman, distressed indeed ; she knows her danger, and that strengthens the disorder. I went to see her just before I sat down to write. Come not near me, Madam, said the poor creature, I am a wretch, unworthy this condescension, or your forgiveness. I assured her I did not
recollect

recollect any offence towards me, but such as I could easily pardon. — O blessed sound ! she replied, am I forgiven ? Do you say I am forgiven ? — Then staring up, she wrung her hands, and with wild vehemence cried out, O my good Lady — the Duke — Lady Caroline — they — they ; — have mercy heaven, hide — hide — my guilt. These words plainly indicated a delirium, and leaving her to the care of the nurse, I hastened from the room. Her father and daughter are already arrived, being sent for at her own desire. May she receive from them the consolation she seems to want. My mother has appointed an apartment

and Lady Caroline S——. 185

ment for them, with proper attendance ; that their sorrow might not be intruded on. Mr. Nevison, who appears to be a worthy man, will, I hope, make death put on the form of a messenger to convey her to happiness ; not the frightful monster her hurried imagination has raised.—I am just now told she is certainly dying, and requests to see my mother. Going to attend her Grace on this sad office, I must drop my pen.—

I come from beholding approaching death in its most horrible shape. Methinks I hear in every sound a piercing groan, and still see the person who maintains
so

186 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

so obstinate a conflict, with her conqueror. Violent convulsions succeed each other, and every minute threatens to deprive her of that life, she struggles to preserve.

——I must write on to calm my spirits, they are shocked beyond imagination; what a dreadful mysterious scene have I just beheld!—How do the guilty tremble when near their dissolution! Mrs. Dalton has been guilty of a crime towards my mother, but of what nature, must remain a secret, till providence, in its own proper time, brings it to light.—On our entering the room, she turned her eyes towards us with a look (I shall never forget it) frightfully

and Lady Caroline S——. 187

fully eager. O Madam, says she, hear,—hear me confess my—crime,—my—guilt. But was again seized with convulsions. They did not last long; on my mother's going to her, she caught one of her hands, and cried with vehemence, Now—now—forgive—my—guilt; death—death—the power,—I suppose she meant that death would take from her the power of explaining the guilt she laboured under. Seeing her daughter, who was retired to the window, and wanting to implore some favour of my mother, she beckoned her forward, joined their hands, and pressed them together; her countenance that instant

188 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
stant indicating returning reason.
Never did I see her Grace so
much affected; she even shed tears
whilst she looked at Miss Dalton,
who eagerly kissed the hand her
mother had put into hers.—Her
Grace was pleased with this ami-
able confidence, held her in her
arms, and promised always to love
her. Mrs. Dalton regarded them
with silent rapture; we thought
she had been speechless, but raising
herself in the bed, she pronounced,
though with great difficulty, *Lady*
—and then a minute after *Nature*.
—My mother whispered me,
that she certainly meant to tell
her, nature was making its last
efforts. And observing that she
made

and Lady Caroline S——. 189

made proper signs to every question asked; we left her to the care of Mr. Nevison, who waited in hopes of finding an opportunity of administering the last solemn office; and by sacred authority to calm the tumults of her disturbed soul.

Miss Dalton is a lovely girl, I intend to desire my mother, who denies me nothing, to keep her with us, at least till her grief is a little subsided, O that she would consent to live entirely with me, but this I must not expect; and that I must not, strangely affects me. Had you ever seen her, Ladies, you would not be surprized
at

190 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
at this prepossession. If my heart
was not so full, I think I would
describe her to you ; but I am so
fluttered, my spirits are in such
continual agitation, something like
expectation, I suppose, of poor
Mrs. Dalton's death, prevents me
from collecting my scattered
thoughts. I wonder how the
sweet creature will bear the loss of
her mother. I am determined to
lessen her grief by sharing it with
her, without being violent ; it
was so melting, so pathetic, when
she saw us about to leave the room,
that we prevailed on her to retire
with us ; I would have taken her
to my apartment, but her Grace
seemed desirous she should go to
hers,

and Lady Caroline S——. 191

hers, so I went with them, and we each led her by the hand. We had not been long together, when a second message was brought my mother, who, attended by miss Dalton, has been with the poor departing suppliant, whilst I have scribbled thus far. Hush! I think I hear them coming this way. Do not my ears deceive me?—her Caroline—surely it is my mother's voice,—her dear Caroline again. O my beating heart!—what means thy palpitations? Lie down my pen.——

Yes, yes, she lives! she lives!
all now is out, Mrs. Dalton has
breathed her last; it was Lady
Ca-

192 *The Histories of Lady Frances
Caroline*, it was the force of *Nature*, she meant to have said. She
has confessed it all with dying
repentant lips, has she confessed
it!—I fly once more to embrace
my dearest sister,—how strange!
how intricate! are the ways of
Providence? I can write no more,
let the inclosed, put into my mother's
hand by Mrs. Dalton, just as she
was expiring, speak for me, and
tell my dear Mrs. Worthley, all my
dear friends with her, the charming,
charming cause of the joy I this
moment experience.

Mrs.

Mrs. Dalton to the Dutches
of ———.

BEFORE your Grace will receive this, the writer of it will be no more; I am now going to give an account of all my crimes to that judge, who has, in this world, begun my punishment, by suffering my guilt to be my constant companion. That guilt I have often been attempting to atone for, by my sincere repentance; and by making a full discovery of my crime, with the motive that induced me to undertake it. But alas! the dread of your Grace's displeasure, and the consequences

of it, kept me from easing my heart of its intolerable burthen.

—And now my pen trembles whilst I write that Lady Caroline still lives; she lives, an honour to you, an honour to your sex! concealed by me under a fictitious name, her noble birth shines out in obscurity. How will your Grace rejoice, at finding undoubted proofs of her being your daughter! At this thought, a gleam of comfort breaks in on my benighted soul, and I discern that your forgiveness, joined with my sincere repentance, will obtain the pardon of my heavenly Father. With this consolation, I can now proceed in tracing my
guilt

and Lady Caroline S——. 195

guilt from its first origin, as every minute circumstance, when weighed, will enforce the truth.

—At the time your Grace first took me into your service, my father had three other children, his income being then narrow, tho' he lived within its bounds, yet he often met with inconveniencies.

This made both himself and my mother determine to place us in the world as soon as they could find proper opportunities. Taught by their examples and precepts, I received a good education at sixteen, and was often praised for my prudence, and accomplishments.

One day, my father returning from Lady L—— (his present pa-

K 2

tronefs)

196 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
tronefs) told me, that her Lady-
ship would recommend me to
serve your Grace if I approved it,
I assented, and soon prepared my-
self to attend her commands. She
carried me to you ; your Grace
liked me, and I from that mo-
ment waited on your person, con-
tinually receiving marks of your
favour; how I have abused that
favour will soon appear. Your
Grace discovered in me a taste for
dress, and seemed delighted with it.
In short, I grew vain, was giddy
with applause, and admired the
charms of grandeur. The neglect
of those worthy parents, whose
chief pleasure consisted in seeing
their children humble and virtu-
ous,

and Lady Caroline S——. 197

ous, now followed. My father was born to affluence, but lost it by unavoidable misfortunes. But the greatest blow his heart ever received, was my marrying meanly; for, from among the number of those that flattered my vanity, I chose the most unworthy.—Your Grace still retained me in your service. When with child, and near the time of my delivery, I removed to lodgings, but by your Grace's desire returned to suckle Lady Caroline, who was born six weeks after the birth of my own child, whom I christened Elizabeth. The air of London not agreeing with her Ladyship, I was ordered to take both the children

198 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
to one of the Duke's seats in Norfolk. That air soon restored Lady Caroline to health, and from your Grace's foibles sprung the detestable thought I then began to entertain. No longer can I flatter them; and, O madam, let your eyes no more deceive your senses, or think your children your rivals: a total neglect of them is the source of my crimes; actuated by ambition I gave it full scope. It represented to me the probability of imposing my child on you; such a mother as yourself, who had never seen your own, but once from its birth, would not discern the changling. The advantages I should gain by it must be great. I
had

and Lady Caroline S——. 199

had an inexpressible fondness for my daughter, I knew I should be placed in the same house with her; I knew too that when she arrived at a proper age, I could confide the secret to her, which for her own sake she would inviolably keep: whilst I should, unperceived, share in her grandeur and duty. The temptation was too great for my resistance. My father, who had received a considerable addition to his income, Lady L—— having presented him with a living, and imagined that I was incapable, thro' my late husband's extravagancy, of maintaining a child; offered to take it from me. This proposal I eagerly caught, and

K 4 imme-

200 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
immediately sent Lady Caroline
to him, knowing he could not de-
tect the imposition. Providence
has rewarded his care of that ex-
cellent Lady, by her having sweet-
ened his dregs of life, which I by
my folly had imbittered.—Your
Grace will recollect that on order-
ing her Ladyship to be brought
into your dressing-room, about six
weeks after her birth, the Coun-
tess of H——, Lady D——, the
honourable Miss L——, and other
ladies of distinction being then
with you, desiring to see her, were
surprized at the pretty mark of a
cherry on her neck. She had been
in the room but a few moments
before she cried, and your Grace,
in

in a pettish manner, bid me carry away the squaller. By your Grace's scarce looking at her Ladyship, I was certain that her features had not made any impresson on your memory; so I gloried in the supposed success of my project, the secret locked in my own bosom. I then disregarded that searcher of hearts, whose piercing eye has often since made me tremble.—

I staid at Courtly Place till the supposed Lady Caroline was one year old. At our return, your Grace did not express the joy at seeing her, common to most mothers; and on your looking for the mark which you remembered, I had art enough to make you believe it was

worn out. The real Lady Caroline has it now on her neck; and so remarkable, that those ladies I have mentioned, will witness it is the same that attracted their notice. Such as your Grace was, in the bloom of youth and beauty, such is her Ladyship; worthy of the high station to which she was born. Receive her as your daughter calculated to make happy, and to be made so.—All I have now to write of my own sad story is, that in two years after my return my child died. The sorrow I could not prevent from appearing was taken notice of by the Duke, your Grace, and all your domesticks, and ascribed to my having had the
care

and Lady Caroline S——. 203

care of Lady Caroline in her infancy. The disappointment of my hopes made me fall sick, and thinking I was near death, I was on the point of disclosing my guilt; but never could prevail with myself, till in the possession of that king of terrors.—Now I fear not your resentment, yet implore your forgiveness, and that of my dear Lady Frances Worthley. Your Grace too well knows the part I have acted towards that excellent Lady; it was when I saw your Grace's treatment of the gentle sufferer in sending her from your house, that a sincere repentance first entered my heart; it was then that I resolved to write what you

K 6

now

204 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
now read; not only to restore
Lady Caroline to your arms, but
to endeavour to convince your
Grace that, had you acted like a
mother, you would never have
lost the one, nor driven the other
from you. And O Madam, re-
form those errors in your conduct,
and not rob yourself of your chil-
dren, which are your real orna-
ments, if you will suffer them to
appear. My affection for your
Grace has made me take this li-
berty, which nothing but that can
excuse; for it is death, and death
only that can make me forget your
too great kindness for your un-
worthy servant.—All I have now
to beg is, that the innocent may

not

and Lady Caroline S——. 205

not suffer with the guilty. If you bring down the grey hairs of my father to the grave, you will double my crime, and be a sharer in it. But if you suffer Lady Caroline still to look on him as the person who has given her an education not unworthy her birth, your Grace will obtain pardon and blessing from that judge, before whom I shall appear; and to whom I appeal for my father's innocence. Once more on my bended knees do I write, intreating forgiveness from your Grace, the Duke, and all those I have injured. May heaven have mercy on the poor soul, who so greatly needs it, prays your truly repentant servant,

E—— Dalton.

Lady

Lady Frances Worthley to Mrs.
Worthley.

MY spirits are again calm'd. I have just left my dear Caroline, who has been sharing with me the transports of the fondest parents. Her Grace felt the mother in her bosom, long before she knew she could bestow that title on her. I too felt the powerful pleadings of affection, without knowing that it was my sister who gave them birth. My mother desirous of trying if my father, would confess any of those pleasing sensations that had risen in herself, on her first beholding the supposed Miss Dalton, determined

and Lady Caroline S——. 207

mined to have the knowledge of this important discovery kept secret, till she had for some moments observed the workings of his mind; and for that purpose sent to desire he would favour us with his company. Though Lady Caroline had never before seen him, yet struck with parental awe, she could scarcely contain her emotion, whilst his countenance shewed all the parent. Having paid her his compliments, he took an opposite chair, turning his looks alternately on my mother and his charming daughter, seeming to struggle with his curiosity. When rising from his seat, he asked the former the name of the young
Lady

Lady her visitor; for, said he, never did I see so near a resemblance as she bears to yourself. My dear Lord, replied my mother, I can no longer keep you in suspense; read this letter, the penitent writer in her last moments confirmed its truth, by the most solemn act of religion.—Lady Caroline threw herself at his feet, while his impatient eye glanced over the lines, till he came to that where her name was first mentioned; when, agitated with joy, he pressed her to his bosom, crying out she is, she is my child! My mother and he, by turns, folded their arms about her; nor was I disregarded by them, their dear
Caroline,

and Lady Caroline S——. 209

Caroline, and their dear Fanny being the pleasing sounds that vibrated on our ears. My sister, in a manner, full of humility and gratitude, desired permission to introduce to their notice Mr. Nevison, whom she had regarded as her parent, from whom she had received every necessary of life, and an education that had made that life pleasing to her. My father, who is no stranger to his character, having received a most worthy one of Lady L——, said, he would go himself and bring him to us; and in an instant returned, leading in the good old man.—As soon as she saw him, O my father, said she, running to him,

him, and laying her head on his bosom, my— my— preserver,— receive—your blest.—Here Mr. Nevison gave a great scream, and cried out help! help! O my child, my child!—for she had fainted in his arms, her tender frame not being able to support so many affecting scenes. His fortitude seemed to have forsaken him: to see him kneeling by her, as we were all trying to restore her, his reverend cheek laid close to hers, and both wet with his tears; to see him rend his silver locks, and pray to God with uplifted hands, that he might not survive their only comfort; would have moved a stoic to compassion, and changed his hardened

hardened nature. Think then how melting must be the sight where each person would gladly have given their own to have preserved her life! When it was again restored her, he would have made some apology for the extravagancy he had shewn in the presence of my father and mother, but they would not suffer him to use any. Every one having welcomed her back to life with the tenderest caresses, she took Mr. Nevison by the hand, and presented him to them. My dearest parents, said she, pressing it to her lips, will you not always permit me to love, to honour, to reverence this good old man? You know not how large

large is the heart of your Caroline, allow then a little share of it to him who has formed it, I hope, not unworthy your tender favours. You my sister must help to love him for me.—So we will all, said my father. So we all will, said my mother. And to shew the dear creature I already did, I took his other hand and kissed it.—Now my dear Mrs. Worthley, is the excellent Mr. Nevison never more to leave his daughter, my father and mother having prevailed on him to spend the remainder of his days with her. At first he said, that looking on retirement and contemplation, as proper objects to employ an old man, who could

could not expect to have his time lengthened out to a much longer date; he must beg their excuses if he declined so great an honour. But would, once or twice a year, should his health permit, renew his personal acknowledgments.— His Grace replied, that if he consented to oblige him, his private hours should never be intruded on; besides, continued he, tell him, my Caroline, we want among us so bright an example of virtue to reform some of our reigning vices. In short, he could no longer resist our joint solicitations. His gratitude overflowed in language graceful as the famous Roman orators; praising my father's beneficent

214 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
scent disposition, in terms far
different from some, that make
virtue applicable to those who ne-
ver possessed it, and are obliged to
the mouth of a mean flatterer, or
the pen of an hireling for the sha-
dow of it.—Mrs. Dalton's name
is never mentioned in the family,
as the doing it would be an insult
on her worthy father. It gives
me great pleasure to find that the
poor creature, after all her strug-
gles, made the end of a good
christian, dying in seeming peace
with her conscience, her last mo-
ments being all serenity.—My fa-
ther, mother, and sister, write to
my dear uncle on this occasion. I
must again repeat that there is but
one

and Lady Caroline S——. 215

one addition wanting, to compleat the felicity of your happy, thrice happy daughter.

Frances Worthley.

Miss Hamilton to Miss Wentworth.

ALL on the wing for town, Lord Ormsby scarcely allows me time to send the enclosed letters, which will unfold to you the reason of his impatience. Yet let him say what he will, that it is cruel, barbarous, to detain them from setting out; I must tell Harriot how extremely your Lordship has been frightened.—Yesterday morning,

morning when the packet arrived, every body's joy was too great for them to observe, that Lord Ormsby and my brother were not of our party; Lady Lucy was the first that recollected it, and whispered me it would be a pleasing discovery for her brother; but he must not, added she, be made acquainted with it, before people that do not know Miss Dalton, as his joy will, I fear, make him betray the secret. Lord Henry retiring to congratulate the Duke and Dutcheſs, Mrs. Worthley, Lady Frances, we said we would go in pursuit of our brothers.—Will you believe it? Lady Lucy intended to be quite cruel, and begged my assistance.

and Lady Caroline S——. 217

assistance. I told her mine must be an easy part to act. It was only, she replied, to convert a face which had still impressed on it the highest marks of pleasure, to one all sad. On our entering the wood I mentioned in a former letter, we saw the gentlemen at the head of one of the walks; as soon as they perceived us, they quickened their steps, while we moved slowly on; not unmindful now and then to apply handkerchiefs to our eyes; which as soon as they discovered, Good God, sister! said one; Good God! dear Lady Lucy, said the other, what is the meaning of all this? As for me, I might that moment have cried my eyes out,

VOL. III.

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and

218 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
and not the least notice taken of
it; so, in my turn, was determined
to have a little revenge. While her
Ladyship seemingly stood like Vi-
obe all tears, I informed them in
the tenderest manner, that Miss
Dalton was no more. Lord Orms-
by was frightened to as great a de-
gree, as Macbeth when he beheld
the spirit of Banquo. O! for ever
miserable Ormsby, he exclaimed;
nor should I have known he had
been animated, had not his eyes
been frequently cast towards hea-
ven, praying, I make no doubt, to
be taken to that place where he
supposed his saint was just entered.
—— Sir William from Lady Lucy
went to comfort Lord Ormsby,
but

and Lady Caroline S——. 219

but it had not the effect on his real grief, as on his sister's imaginary. Our farce ending, the curtain dropped from her eyes, and instead of the afflicted, discovered the laughing Lady Lucy.—How apt are we to entertain the gloomy rather than the chearful: I no sooner said that Miss Dalton was no more, than Lord Ormsby, without a question, believed it; but being told she lived in Lady Caroline, he would not for a long while give it credit; when he did, in the words of Desdemona, he thought it strange! 'twas passing strange! 'twas wonderful! Further I cannot proceed; for to say he wished he had not heard it, would be a con-

L 2 tradition

220 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
tradiction to nature.—Bless me,
my Lord, how impatient you are,
I have but three lines to write.—
Here has his Lordship been calling
at my window ever since I first
sat down to write. So I shall only
add, that Lord Henry and Mrs.
Worthley assent to our return, as
they think Lady Lucy is uneasy
on account of the Earl's being
alone. Lord Henry accompanies
us to welcome his new niece. So
we shall have all these good people
with us, except Mrs. Worthley,
who cannot be prevailed on to
leave retirement; yet I hope the
joint petitions of Lord Henry and
Lady Frances will not long suf-
fer her to remain in it.—Some-
body

and Lady Caroline S——. 221

body is coming up stairs ; O! it
it is Lady Lucy; she tells me her
brother is quite outrageous. Well,
my Lord, I'll not keep your pa-
tience longer on the torture, after
I have told my Harriot that Lady
Lucy, at the earnest entreaties of
my brother, has consented to be
his, when Lady Caroline can be
prevailed on by Lord Ormsby to
make him happy. May you al-
ways enjoy the felicity which this
assurance has bestowed on your

Juliet Hamilton.

L 3

Miss

Miss Hamilton to Miss Wentworth.

THO' returned to town three days, I have not been able to collect my thoughts sufficiently to send you the many transactions that have happened in that short space. Even now, before I give you any particulars, I must tell you in general, that an universal joy is spread over every countenance, proceeding from the same cause. The Earl's youth seems renewed; he dresses and powders like a beau; nay, vows on a certain occasion, to shew the world he has not forgot his dancing; and
has

has already engaged me for his partner.—Lord Ormsby, no more the whining, pining disappointed lover, carries the certificate of his happiness in his face; and I don't believe he has been serious two minutes together, since it was ascertained to him. Again he dresses gaily, walks with his arms in proper position, can sit in a room three or four hours, and not lull you asleep with his sighs. Had you asked him but a week since for a song, he had forgot his singing; but now make the same request, and he will give you a dozen following. In short Lord Ormsby is the reverse of what Lord Ormsby was. This I own is like opening

224 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
the last page of a book, when one
wants to see how the story ends.
But again, I say, that recollecting
all those changes and chances,
will naturally bring to my mind the
occasion of them, and help me to
hand down every particular,
which I need not desire you to
communicate to my aunt Charlotte,
and her good man.—Two chaises,
with six horses in each, took us
up at Audley Castle; into the first
stepped Lady Lucy and Lord
Henry; into the second Lord
Ormsby and your Juliet, attended
by my brother on horseback; we
had a pleasant expeditious journey,
and Lord Ormsby, considering all
things, was a tolerable companion.

Being

and Lady Caroline S——. 225

Being set down at the Earl's about seven in the evening, Lord Henry immediately proceeded to the Duke's, impatient to see his new-found neice, of whom Lady Lucy had been giving the character she deserves, revealing the whole affair to his Lordship, as a person whose advice and interest would be of infinite service to her brother. And he had with great pleasure undertook to conduct it, in case Lady Caroline had no objection. This was joyful news for Lord Ormsby; ten thousand times did he thank his sister for her repeated goodness to him; and as often for the judgment and discretion with which she had managed every

L 5

thing

thing that concerned his peace. He proposed himself discovering all to his father, not doubting of a pardon, and ready acquiescence with his inclinations.—That evening the Earl and Lady Lucy were together in his closet near an hour, in which time she read to him her brother's confession, as she calls it, which so delighted him, that he shed tears of joy; first, for his having so happily conquered his faulty morals; secondly, that he had so fortunately fixed his affections. The old gentleman coming to us, shook him by the hand, and swore (for the Earl, my dear, will swear sometimes) that he deserved the finest woman in the world; and that

that he would go himself to the Duke, in order to obtain Lady Caroline for him. His Lordship acknowledged the greatness of the favour, but begged that he might first try, whether he had been so unhappy as to have lost the lady's affection by his former conduct. Which request was readily assented to; and thus far did we proceed the first evening of our arrival. Lord Ormsby was so elate with these hopes, that he would not let us retire till late. Again, making Lady Lucy renew the promise she had given my brother before we left Audley Castle, and we all parted; every kind heart sharing each others pleasure.——

Lady Lucy was with me early in the morning, called me her slothful Juliet, bidding me get up instantly, for that Lady Frances would be with us in an hour; but what astonishes me, said she, is, that Lady Caroline is not included in the message. This too I thought very unaccountable, knowing the obligations she had received from her Ladyship when Miss Dalton. She seated herself by me as I dressed; and we were still talking of her Ladyship when the door opened, and Lady Frances, sprightly as the morning, welcomed us to town. We both enquired after Lady Caroline's health, and were answered, she would certainly have waited

waited on us, had she ever had the pleasure of seeing us. Lady Lucy looked surprized, so did I, I believe; but though, said she, Lady Caroline cannot boast that happiness, I have brought with me one, who prides herself in both your friendships; when stepping to the door, she led in the blooming beauty: and Lady Caroline was the only person I had ever seen, that could surpass Miss Dalton. You cannot imagine any thing half so tender as this interview; the heart of the former was, if possible, more grateful then when it belonged to the latter. Lady Frances knowing the whole affair, both from her sister and Lord Henry,

230 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
Henry, the latter of which told
her how miserable must be Lord
Ormsby, if Lady Caroline refused
to reinstate him in her affections,
began the subject, by asking for
his Lordship. Indeed, said Lady
Lucy, I hardly know how to
name him before Lady Caroline,
though Miss Dalton sometimes in-
dulged me in that liberty.—The
sweet creature looked confused,
but it was a pleased and a pleasing
confusion.—Well, my dear, re-
turned Lady Frances, I find you
do not yet perfectly know my
sister; I think the sound will, and
ought always to be welcome to her.
Dear Lady Lucy, said her Lady-
ship, (still blushing) do not ima-
gine

gine me ungrateful; if I know myself, I never can deserve so black an appellation.—Matchless generosity, said she, am I permitted to mention the man once dear to you? and who, I now pride myself in saying, never deserved that honour half so much as he does at present. Indeed, my dearest Caroline, said Lady Frances, I am so poor, that you must consent to return some of those obligations, which, without your assistance, I cannot pay the least part of: I mean not, my dear, the bestowing yourself and fortune on Lord Ormsby, because it is what his birth and merit intitles him to expect; the manner of bestowing

232 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
stowing them, is only left us to
express a sense of those favours
we can never cancel, being of no
less a nature than both our preser-
vation in distress.—Lady Caroline
could no longer withstand it, and
throwing her arms about Lady
Lucy's neck, I am all your own;
my amiable friend, she cried, I
gave you my heart when you last
blessed me with your presence at
R——It is still yours, do with it
as you please, command it where
you please, and you shall ever find
it an obedient one.—My delighted
Lucy returned her careffes, thanking
her for the power with which she
was invested; saying, that before she
would deliver it up, she must first
convince

and Lady Caroline S——. 233

convince her it would be to the sincerest convert innocence and beauty ever made.—Then going to her closet, brought to her Lord Ormsby's letter to my brother; that from the vile woman, together with the packet. She received them, but said with a sweet frankness, it was because Lady Lucy desired it, being convinced she would never resign her heart to one who would treat it unkindly. We would have detained them at breakfast, but could not prevail, being obliged, they said, to return, not having paid their duty that morning to the fondest parents, and an uncle who demanded their most affectionate attendance.

234 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
attendance. And away went the
angels, we first promising to spend
the afternoon with them at the
Duke's. Just as they were gone,
we met Lord Ormsby coming
from his apartment. You seem
sleepy, brother, said Lady Lucy.
—Why, yes my dear, these un-
certainties, yawning as he spoke,
are like a dose of laudanum; they
must either stupify the senses, or
distract the head.—If I had such a
lover as your Lordship, replied I,
in my conscience I should drench
you with a large potion, that I
might not be troubled with your
complaining: but what would you
say should we have found an an-
tidote that will dispel all its effects?

It

It is plain he took this for nothing more than raillery, and without enquiring what I meant, answered us in our own stile. But when Lady Lucy told him what had passed, and that he had permission to renew his addresses to Lady Caroline, he was absolutely frantic; he caught his sister in his arms, called together half a score servants, sent one to my brother's lodgings, with orders not to return without him; another to his valet to attend him to dress, that he might go instantly to the Duke's, and so on till he had dispatched them all, finding different employment for every one of them. We would have had him defer his visit

fit to Lady Caroline till the afternoon, but could not be heard; yet, said he, I think it will be proper for my father first to wait on the Duke; and without staying to hear our answer, he ran to his chamber, and called the poor old Earl from his bed, who seeing his son's impatience, only drank a dish of chocolate, and having sent a message to the Duke of his son's intentions, Lord Ormsby almost lifted him into his chair; nay, rather than he should not have gone, would, I warrant, like Æneas, have borne his aged father on his shoulders. The whole time the Earl was wanting, his Lordship was employed in dressing,

ing, and that to some purpose. His cloaths were of a garnet colour, the coat richly laced with a gold point d'espagne, the waistcoat entirely covered with a net of gold thread. His ruffles Brussels point. His hair full dressed and powdered. Upon my word he looked quite killingly. Had not Lady Caroline before restored him to her affections, I think she would not now have been able to refuse them to him. In about an hour the Earl returned, highly pleased with his son's choice, and the Duke's genteel behaviour. The moment the former was at liberty to pursue his inclinations, he stepped into a chair, and as fast as the
men

men could run, or rather fly with him, was carried from our sight.

——And now I think to repeat his reception from this noble-minded woman, or his unspeakable joy on the occasion, will be needless; besides, I want to tell you, that in a month from this day, I shall be the happiest creature breathing in a sister. Nor will my aunt be less so in a niece, you in a cousin, but more of this at another season.

Very rich cloaths are preparing for Lady Frances and Lady Caroline, to be presented in to his majesty, neither of which have yet had that honour; the one through
her

and Lady Caroline S——. 239

her former confinement, the other that she has not long been in a station to receive it.

I now begin to love the Dutchess, since she has buried her vanity, from the ashes of which is sprung a sincere affection, and tender fondness for her children: they might, I think, be said to have gained a mother, when they lost a rival. I inclose the copy of a letter from the Dutchess to Mrs. Worthley, given me by Lady Frances, that I might be a judge, she said, of her present happiness: methinks I long to see her next to the dear aunt and cousins of their grateful and affectionate

Juliet Hamilton.

The

men could run, or rather fly with him, was carried from our sight.

——And now I think to repeat his reception from this noble-minded woman, or his unspeakable joy on the occasion, will be needless; besides, I want to tell you, that in a month from this day, I shall be the happiest creature breathing in a sister. Nor will my aunt be less so in a niece, you in a cousin, but more of this at another season.

Very rich cloaths are preparing for Lady Frances and Lady Caroline, to be presented in to his majesty, neither of which have yet had that honour; the one through
her

and Lady Caroline S——. 239

her former confinement, the other that she has not long been in a station to receive it.

I now begin to love the Dutchess, since she has buried her vanity, from the ashes of which is sprung a sincere affection, and tender fondness for her children: they might, I think, be said to have gained a mother, when they lost a rival. I inclose the copy of a letter from the Dutchess to Mrs. Worthley, given me by Lady Frances, that I might be a judge, she said, of her present happiness: methinks I long to see her next to the dear aunt and cousins of their grateful and affectionate

Juliet Hamilton.

The

The Dutcheſs of ——— to Mrs.
Worthley.

Madam,

I Am angry with myſelf for not
requeſting your preſence with
my good brother. The violent,
yet pleaſing attack my ſpirits had
juſt undergone in the reſtoration
of a long loſt child, made me at
that inſtant forget there was a per-
ſon to whom I ſhould have made
known my happineſs, hers being
now connected with it. Indeed
my Fanny and your own, the
deareſt, moſt dutiful of children,
has, by ſpeaking of a mother who
merited that title, when I neg-
lected

and Lady Caroline S——. 241

lected to be grateful for it, raised my hopes and expectations of seeing her to so great a height, that I think I could not now bear a disappointment of them. Let not any consideration detain you from me, most worthy dear woman. I blush to say I am entered on a new road; and my reason tells me I want the friendly hand of her who has never strayed from it to conduct me through. It is here I hope once more to meet those real satisfactions I have so ungratefully disregarded. But then, indeed, vanity, who guided my every step, represented them to my clouded eyes as his enemies; and having banished them my

VOL. III. M breast,

242 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
breast, filled their places with pernicious poison. I still want a guard to place at the door of my heart, to prevent that deceiver of the senses from again entering. Fly then, I conjure you, excellent Mrs. Worthley, and let your example be that resistless guard. Keep out every former thought, for none have I yet entertained that must be again admitted. Encourage by your mild conversation every virtue that would enter, till by your assistance I have attained the true essential ornaments of a woman.— My dear children will not let me write more for fear it would injure me. O their tender affection! how have I deserved it? Methinks I am
but

and Lady Caroline S——. 243

but just recovered from a long sleep. Permit me to send my chariot for you, and pray name an early day when you will oblige me. I can introduce to you a venerable old man, to whom I am indebted for more than life, my Caroline's second father. When I see together the three generous and tender preservers of my children then will be perfectly blessed their once faulty, but now repentant, mother; and dear Madam,

your much obliged,

and affectionate servant,

F. S——.

M 2

Miss

Miss Hamilton to Miss Wentworth.

AS if the repentance of the Dutchess was to be attended with proportionable rewards, heaven showers its particular marks of favour on that family. My letter of yesterday was but just closed, when an officer arrived from——— with dispatches from Lord M———, who commanded on the expedition, with accounts of a compleat victory, in which Col. Worthley bore the largest share of praise, both for courage and conduct. I make no doubt but the hopes of being well received by the Duke
and

and Lady Caroline S——. 245

and Dutcheſs, has helped to puſh him on thus to diſtinguiſh himſelf. Little does he ſuſpect that this work is already done; but theſe great and new inſtances of his worth will certainly procure him a double welcome. I find he is expected ſoon; he writes Lady Frances that he ſhall be in Ireland before the news of the victory could reach England. In a ſhort time after he propoſes ſeeing her at Audley Caſtle, not having heard of the reconciliation. There were other letters to Lord Henry and Mrs. Worthley, which were diſpatched immediately to her; after which, the Duke and his Lordſhip went to congratulate his majeſty

246 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
on this new conquest, thought to
be of the utmost importance to the
nation. He expressed his appro-
bation of Mr. Worthley's gallant
behaviour, and has ordered him
home to be presented with a regi-
ment in the guards. Lord Henry,
whose satisfaction can only be
equalled by the person still dearer
to the young hero, could not be
restrained from setting out for
Audley the instant he left the pre-
sence, and I dare say reached it
nearly as soon as the messenger
sent forward with his letters. Both
Mrs. Worthley and himself are
expected at the Duke's this even-
ing.—I often regret the early fate
of the designed Lady S——; for
what

and Lady Caroline S——. 247

what must be his Lordship's affection, that he not only refuses any other woman the same place in it, though what almost the first in the kingdom has since aspired to, but makes it his greatest pleasure in giving joy to those she most loved ; of which had not his actions already afforded sufficient testimony, his haste in going down to Mrs. Worthley would have been a convincing one. The king, who frequently converses with the Duke and Lord Henry in a familiar manner, asked the former some questions about Lady Caroline's concealment, and expressed a desire of seeing so extraordinary a person as she had been repre-

M 4

sented

sented to him. So the next drawing-room both the ladies are to make their appearance; and have I'll assure you, prevailed on me to be introduced at the same time.

Lady Lucy, who has before had that honour, will be of our party. The king's indisposition, soon after I came to town, has prevented me till now; and upon my word I have no little dread on the occasion. In my opinion it requires a deal of resolution, and a politeness that I know myself not to be mistress of; for as I have often heard you, my dear, observe, politeness does not consist altogether in words, but rather is more

to

and Lady Caroline S——. 249

to be expressed in the air and movement. On the whole, Harriot, I fear I shall be a very awkward figure. As to Lady Caroline, though, like myself, bred in the country; heaven, who knew the high station she was born to fill, has given her a soul that speaks in her very form; she will not look like one who has never before seen a court, but rather as one who has never left it.—Well, for my own sake, I wish this affair over. Lady Lucy insists on my wearing many of her jewels added to my own, so to be sure I shall make a sparkling appearance. Believe me, I would have refused them, being conscious, such as your Juliet ought

M 5

to

to wear nothing to attract notice; for then will not my deficiencies be the more exposed. But in this I could not be heard—I have already purchased a white and silver against an approaching happy event, and shall make that serve me on both occasions.

Welcome, my dear Lucy, see how strangely I have been running on to my Harriot. I must break off here; her Ladyship comes to tell me that an information waits us from the Duke's, to see Mrs. Worthley who is just arrived. O fie! Lady Lucy—she pretends to tell me that she writes you almost as often as myself. I know her designs,

and Lady Caroline S——: 251

signs, and will allow you to love her as well, but no body better than your

Juliet Hamilton.

P. S. I return just in season to inclose the copy of Lord Henry's letter to Col. Worthley, and to tell you that I have heard since I have been out, of Lady Frances's former plague, Lord Milford's being married to the Countess Dowager of——— treble his own age, but immensely rich, and not choosing his young bride should make her first appearance in England, he has carried her out of it, till people's wonder at this preposterous match is a little blown over.

M 6

Lord:

Lord Henry to Col. Worthley.

WELL, my young Martius,
 have you sought fame on
 eagles wings. Bringing the news
 of the late glorious victory has not
 forgot to point you out eminently
 conspicuous. I saw my young sol-
 dier, dreadful in the ranks, leading
 on his brave companions to redou-
 bled charges, though often re-
 pulsed by treble their numbers,
 yet superior valour drove them into
 confusion. I saw you pushing on
 to victory, and heard the shouts
 of success. Ascertained of it, I
 then beheld you exercising those
 acts of humanity your heart de-
 lights

and Lady Caroline S——. 253

lights in; and I congratulate my dear Charles, that his majesty, who rewards merit in his subjects from the patrician to the plebeian, has decreed for you those honours which are your due; and are too of inestimable value, as they are bestowed on you by the prince and father of his country. Come then, my dear Worthley, certain to be joyfully received by my brother, now made sensible of your merit; come to the arms of your indulgent mother, who glories in her son; receive in my dear Fanny, your excellent wife, all the satisfaction that affection, duty, and every art of pleasing can bestow. Your sister too, the amiable Caroline,

254 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

roline, that new found blessing, shall thank you for the honour you have done us. And I will pray heaven that the virtues I have been enumerating may arrest inflexible death, till the hand of stealing time, moving on old age, moulders down the walls of his prison. Haste then to compleat the happiness of all your friends, among which number is your affectionate

Henry S——.

Miss

Miss Hamilton to Miss Wentworth.

SO now, my dear, are all my fears over, and I have had the honour of being saluted by his majesty. I lost sight of them as I fixed it on him, in whose face is such affability and sweetness, that whilst many of his attendants by their looks seemed to command respect, he courted it with smiles of condescension; yet, notwithstanding his visible humility, had he no other mark of royalty about him than his own native dignity, and had he not been pointed to me for what he was, I think I should,

256 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
should, without much penetration,
have discovered the kingly power
in his countenance. Being all
dressed, Lady Lucy in a blue, my-
self in a white and silver, we were
followed to the Duke's by the Earl,
Lord Ormsby, and my brother.
Neither of the Ladies having left
their apartments when our chairs
sat us down, the Dutchess and
Mrs. Worthley with them, we
were, at our own request, shewn
to Lady Frances's dressing-room;
for I assure you, my dear, there
is no other ceremony used in those
houses, than what is thought ne-
cessary even at Ashley.—You can-
not imagine my secret delight, to
see her Grace silently admire every
beauty

and Lady Caroline S——. 257

beauty of her once rival daughter, with as much pleasure as I believe Mr. Worthley himself could have done had he been present. She appeared so lovely altogether, that I did not immediately examine the particulars of her dress, which was rich and elegant. The ground of her cloaths was silver tissue, and over that a net of gold, on which was embossed a fine pattern; her other ornaments, or rather what she ornamented, such as cap, sprig, ear-rings, knots on the sleeves, and bracelets, were entirely diamonds, the Duke and Lord Henry having each presented a set to both the Ladies on this occasion.—From Lady Frances's apartment

258 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
ment I stepped to Lady Caroline's,
where my admiration, from a very
great heighth, was raised still
higher. I had never before seen her
Ladyship full dressed, and could
scarcely forbear expressing my asto-
nishment, at beholding an altera-
tion, where I thought an advan-
tageous one, such as I now saw,
almost impossible. She had on a
silver tissue, with large bunches of
pale pink flowers, tied with knots
of plain white ribband, and her
jewels were placed in the same
becoming positions as Lady Fran-
ces's; only this distinction, that
hers were intermingled with pearls.
The Dutchess, whose taste is re-
markably elegant, had displayed
itself

and Lady Caroline S——. 259

itself in choosing the dresses for both her daughters; nicely distinguishing between majestic, and, if I may be allowed the expression, refined beauty. Her Ladyship, with an inexpressible engaging freedom, seated me in a chair next her own. I have been reflecting, my dear Miss Hamilton, said she, on the great difference between my former and present station; and cannot help exclaiming with the poet;

The ways of heaven are dark and
intricate,
Puzzled with mazes and perplexed
in errors.

Our

260 *The Histories of Lady Frances*

Our understanding traces them in
vain,

Lost and bewilder'd in the fruit-
less search ;

Nor sees with how much art the
windings run,

Or where the regular confusion
ends.

And then so sweetly did she ex-
patriate on the serene quiet she en-
joyed in the one, the happy pros-
pects breaking on her in the other,
that I could for ever have listened,
if being dressed, she had not pro-
posed joining the ladies. Mr. Ne-
vison, who has admission when
he pleases to her toilet, entered
the room just as we were about to
leave

and Lady Caroline S——. 261

leave it, gazing at her with affectionate rapture ; your Ladyship, said he, looks charmingly to-day. O my father, she replied, putting her arms about him, her eyes sparkling with dutiful melting tenderness, must those trifling baubles rob me of the beloved title you used to honour me with? If that is the price I am to purchase them at, never more let my person be adorned at the expence of my souls treasure. O my child ! my darling child ! exclaimed the old man, as he pressed her to his bosom, how can I deserve such goodness !—By never giving me any other name than that dear one you have just pronounced. Do
you

you hear, do you see, madam (turning to me) tell me, miss Hamilton, how shall I support it. I was I protest all in tears, unknown to myself, so attentive was I in observing this scene; and Lady Caroline had wiped them away before they were perceived by me. But what makes you, my dearest sir (continued she) thus dressed to-day. The good Duke, my love, he replied, has insisted that I shall see my daughter introduced. Thank you, thank you, my dear parent, for restoring me to that valuable epithet, which I would not lose for the first that could be bestowed on me. And now, indeed, will your presence give your child
courage

and Lady Caroline S——. 263

courage to receive her new honour. This passed as we went to Lady Frances's apartment, and she being ready, we joined the Duke, the Earl, Lord Henry, Lord Ormsby, and my brother. When Lady Caroline appeared, Lord Ormsby seemed like one transfixed; and without taking his eyes from her, paid his compliments to the other ladies, giving Mr. Nevilson his hand, which was received with great regard, for he has quite restored himself to that good man's opinion. Leaving behind us the Dutchess and Mrs. Worthley, we were once more in our chairs; his Lordship led to hers that hand, which will be
soon

soon his own, and in a few minutes we found ourselves in the presence. I trembled as I came forward to the ring; but as I have already said, my timidity vanished on seeing the person I was to appear before. The Duke attended by the master of the ceremonies, first led up Lady Frances, and a murmur of applause ran through the circle. Making a motion as if she would have kneeled, his majesty raised and saluted her. She then stepped backward to her place, and Lady Caroline who stood near Mr. Nevison, was conducted forward in the same manner. I expected each minute, when the old gentleman would have melted

and Lady Caroline S——. 265

melted into tears; for as she moved towards the king, every eye was fixed on her; and without the least whisper, looked their admiration, as if they thought the sound of a voice, so delicate did she appear, might have offended.—The ceremony over, she too retreated back, and your Juliet was received with the same marks of royal favour. His majesty then calling the Duke to him, in a low voice, yet loud enough for all present to hear him, asked if he might not see the old gentleman who had given Lady Caroline an education? and the Duke instantly introduced him. He approached with such respectful, yet unintimidated grace,

VOL. III.

N

as

266 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
as if he would have said, shall I,
who have so often offered up my
petitions to the king of kings, be
exalted by this transitory honour?
and kneeling on one knee, he kis-
sed the hand his sovereign graci-
ously held out to him, and by his
looks, seemed to pray for new
blessings on so good a prince, who
not contented with the honour he
had already conferred on him,
condescendingly thanked him
for having raised a flower that
with pleasure he could see re-
moved to his own court, to
which it would be an additional or-
nament. Every one seemed pleased
with this compliment, while the
good man retired, his countenance
full of duty and gratitude: poor
Lady

and Lady Caroline S——. 267

Lady Caroline was in such confusion at this particular notice, that I suffered for her. For some minutes I had observed, with a good deal of attention, a young nobleman, whose looks, as Lady Caroline was introducing, changed alternately from red to pale, from pale to red; and imagining it a sudden start of passion, really pitied him, because I knew it must be in vain. But my observation being fixed on the king, while addressing Mr. Nevilson, when I again looked towards that part of the room where the moment before I had seen him, behold the bird was flown; and on enquiry, I found it to be the vile Lord Edg-

N 2

moor.

268 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
moor. No wonder vice shrunk
back abashed, when virtue appear-
ed in all her glory. It was lucky
he was not observed by Lord
Ormsby; though, had that been the
case, it would certainly have been
madness in him to have risked a
life which Lady Caroline is so soon
to make happy. Lady Lucy in-
sists on finishing my letter. What
does she mean? If to tell tales,—
but no matter, my dear, notwith-
standing you are so peremptory, I
am determined you shall not have
it.

Lady

Lady Lucy on Miss Hamilton's
letter.

WELL, I have absolutely taken it from her by force, and am now locked in my closet; to tell you as soon as I can get my breath, which I have half lost, that Juliet, when at court, fixed the heart of the agreeable Sir Burton Randolph. No wonder, for indeed I never saw her look so charmingly, quite lovely looked my dear girl. Knock, knock, knock if you please; there is no admittance for you, at least till I have secured your letter. I'll put my own seal on it, my dear, neither will I give

N 3

you

270 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
you the trouble of sending it. I
protest she grows so noisy, that in
my own defence I must open the
door; but first I must hide my
letter, after I have said adieu, both
for your Juliet and

Lucy.

Miss Hamilton to Miss Went-
worth.

A Slight fever, cold, or some
such disorder, has sadly teased
me for this fortnight past, and has
all that time, at least Lady Lucy
has on that account, prevented me
from writing. For indeed I have
not been half so ill as her appre-
hensive tenderness has made her
think me. However, as she so
kindly

and Lady Caroline S——. 271

kindly supplied my deficiency, you can have no reason to regret it, especially as I have now quite discarded all my complaints, and am as well as if I had never ailed any thing. My spirits, in proportion to my health, increase every moment that brings on to-morrow, which I need not again tell you is the day when so many hearts are to be made happy. Lady Lucy's thoughtfulness does not suffer me to be much from her; though whenever my brother is present, no marks of it appear. I think I hear her Ladyship going to her dressing-room, if so I must lay down my pen.

No, it was only Mrs. Johnson, and I again resume it, to tell you how all parties are to be disposed of after to-morrow. The Earl will do my aunt the honour of a visit with my brother and Lady Lucy, and when they settle, it is to be with his Lordship; who having lost the company of his son, cannot, he says, lose that of his daughters; indeed this request seemed equally agreeable to all. Lord Henry's time and Mrs. Worthley's is to be divided between the Duke, Dutches, and their two daughters. Lady Frances and Mr. Worthley to live in the house given them by his Lordship in Grosvenor-street, Lord Ormsby and Lady Caroline,
in

and Lady Caroline S——. 273

in one newly purchased by the Earl in Soho-square. As for Mr. Nevilson, he is to be a constant visitor of the latter; unless for about three months every summer, when, Lord Henry says, he shall insist on having him, together with the Duke and Earl's Families as they are branched out, to be his guests at Audley Castle. I hope my dear aunt will by that time get strength to be of our party, for I believe no excuse will be accepted from herself and daughters. I have engaged Lady Frances, and she for Mr. Worthley, together with Lady Caroline and her Lord, to see us at Ashley before Lady Lucy and
my

my brother returns to town. Mr. Nevison we have also prevailed on to accompany them; Lord Henry and Mrs. Worthley are to go in the mean time, with the Duke and Dutches, to their seat in Norfolk. Thus is all settled, and as we propose seeing you so soon, this will be my last letter. How do I impatiently long to find myself in your arms, my dearest aunt? my Harriot and Charlotte all welcoming their rejoiced and affectionate

Juliet Hamilton.

Lady

Lady Lucy Hamilton to Mrs:
Wentworth.

IN addressing the aunt of my beloved husband and sister, permit me, dearest Madam, as I have always thought so, now to call her mine; it is the good Mr. Nevison, who has bestowed that happy title on me, to deserve which shall be my latest endeavour. The hands of Lady Caroline and my brother were joined the same hour in the same church, and with the same views of lasting happiness.

The pen is taken from me, by him whose will shall never be disputed,

276 *The Histories of Lady Frances*
puted, unless when he would be
too indulgent to his Lucy.

(Sir William Hamilton writes.)

Trace back, dear Madam,
again survey every line, every
word that conveys to you the
most perfect picture of my fe-
licity. O! my dearest creature,
teach me how to deserve such
sweet, such tender obligations; I
see it is not for my happiness I
should preserve a will. No, my
love, from this hour do I resign
it, and let my wife, my Lucy
condescend to direct it by her own.

Lady

(Lady Lucy writes.)

Indeed fir William, I never before thought you mercenary, but you have run away with my words, and left me nothing but a grateful heart, that is determined to follow you; so not to retard its designs, you must not only take back the will you would lade me with, but your Lucy's too, and being thus lightened shall I travel on, in hopes if not of overtaking you, yet that you will not leave me very far behind.

Miss

(Miss Hamilton writes.)

Why, what ado is here! the very first pair I believe that ever squabbled who should not, though many have, who should, be invested with the larger share of power. Come, let me be the arbitratrix, and decide for you.

(Lady Lucy writes.)

I submit to my Juliet's decision.

(Sir William writes.)

Agreed, my sister.

Miss

(Miss Hamilton writes.)

This then is the case. You two disputants are bound for the land of happiness, through the vale of affection, both equally laden with a will of their own. Both I think started at the same time; yes, yes, Lucy; the masquerade and polite gardener I still remember; so allow me to say you reached love-lane together, and travelled on till you came upon a beaten road called matrimony, which sometimes displays the most lovely, at others most disgusting views. It happened to be a sunshine morning when you entered it; and immediately

mediately, at a small distance, you saw compliance, the daughter of affection, and accompanied by her mother. You hastened your steps to reach the smiling queen: but finding those abovementioned wills might prevent your speed, a contention arose which should carry the whole burthen, each forcing it on the other's shoulders. Thus having stated the case according to my character of Lord chief, here follows my decision. It is decreed out of our great consideration for both parties, that these said wills be bound together with a silken cord of tenderness, and thus to carry it between you, neither to bear more or less than the other.

We

and Lady Caroline S——. 281

We further decree that should either refuse to be introduced to compliance, the other shall go forward, and so win him or her over to the same power, by the force of example.

(Lady Lucy and Sir William
write.)

This just sentence is readily accepted, and shall joyfully be complied with.

(Miss Hamilton concludes.)

Thus my dear aunt having settled this mighty affair, I must tell you we have waited in town two days longer than was proposed, to

VOL. III.

O

see

see Mr. Worthley, who arrived at the Duke's early this morning; so we shall have Lady Frances and Lady Caroline equally happy, with your Lucy, William, and
Juliet Hamilton.

P. S. Lady Lucy writes.

Sir Burton Randolph will attend my sister to Ashley Park. Adieu,

F I N I S.

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